

Safety fears bring ban on new airport

Collision worries over lack of radar cover

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

All flights between the new London City airport and Paris have been halted on the orders of the Civil Aviation Authority because of fears of a mid-air collision.

The ban on further

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IN PART 2

Bonus hopes

Insurance company bonuses could be healthy in the new year despite the stock market slide. Family Money, 28-31

Portfolio

There is £12,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio Gold competition today, the £4,000 daily prize plus the £8,000 weekly prize. Yesterday's prize was won by a reader from East Sussex. Details page 3. Portfolio list, page 27. Weekly check, page 29.

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Bhutto supporters celebrate Karachi wedding



Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan opposition leader, and her bridegroom, Mr Asif Zardari, smiling at their wedding reception in Karachi yesterday.

Woman dies as crowds go wild

Karachi (Reuters) — The wedding day here of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the head of the Pakistan opposition, was marred yesterday as bullets fired by Kalashnikov-wielding, jubilant supporters in celebration killed a woman spectator.

Witnesses said a burst of fire hit a woman named Salma, who was watching the celebrations from the balcony of her flat opposite the reception ground. Political sources identified her as the wife of a worker for Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

A hospital doctor said that at least 10 people were also hurt falling from a tree and iron railings during a rush to see Miss Bhutto, aged 34, after the Muslim ceremony in which she wed Mr Asif Zardari, a Sindhi businessman.

Miss Bhutto pledged that her arranged marriage would not change her, and said: "Benazir Bhutto doesn't cease to exist the moment she marries, she's the same person. I am keeping my own name."

Several hundred PPP supporters gathered with portraits of the politician and her executed father, the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Chanting slogans and waving tricolour party flags, they arrived in lorries, cars, and donkey carts, on bicycles and motor scooters from all over Pakistan and even abroad. Mr Mukhtar Ahmad Mir, an estate agent from Barking, East London, said: "I spent more than £1,000 to come here — and that was just the fares."

He had come with his British-born son to pay tribute to the Bhuttos. "These are poor people," he said, indicating a group of brightly-dressed women. "Bhutto gave them a voice."

The numbers involved were tiny, however, by the standards of Pakistani politics, where rallies can draw upwards of one million people. Across Karachi, in the poor, bustling area of Lyari, several thousand people were gathered for the popular reception to be held later in the day.

She had cut down on her jewellery, and insisted that her family paid no dowry, another almost universal custom. "We have tried to make a personal statement that I hope will help both brides and families in Pakistan," she pledged. She had married, after leading the PPP for eight years as a spinster, would not lessen her campaign to oust President Zia. Miss Bhutto rejected a suggestion that she had given herself away by having an arranged marriage.

£10,000 for sex abuse blunder

A High Court judge yesterday awarded £10,000 to a six-year-old girl and her mother from Cleveland who suffered the torment of a sexual abuse investigation because of a hospital blunder.

Mr Justice Eastham said at Teesside Crown Court that the girl and her mother were the victims of "appalling negligence". He awarded them £5,000 each.

The court was told that a vaginal swab taken from the girl was tested at North Tees General Hospital, Stockton, on the same laboratory slide as a man's sperm sample and it was wrongly concluded that she had been abused. The error occurred because laboratory technicians were ordered to use the slides twice to cut costs.

The girl was kept in hospital for five days for repeated questioning by police and social workers before "this hideous mistake" was discovered, said Mr Alan Ward, QC, for the family.

"The girl was subjected to a further medical examination which left her screaming in pain. She became petrified of doctors and police, suffered nightmares and was preoccupied with sex and examining her own body."

Continued on page 22, col 5

Insider dealer Boesky jailed for three years

From Charles Bremner, New York

Ivan Boesky, the once flamboyant financier at the heart of New York's huge insider-trading scandal, was sentenced yesterday to three years' prison and no fine, a lenient penalty that reflects the fact that he has given prosecutors a detailed picture of wrongdoing by senior Wall Street operators.

Boesky, a 50-year-old immigrant's son from Detroit who once preached a creed that "greed is good", stood motionless and slightly stooped in the Manhattan Federal Court as Judge Morris Lasker told him his offence "cannot go unpunished. Its seriousness was too substantial merely to forgive and to forget."

Under a deal with federal investigators last year, Boesky, who was himself turned in by another arrested financier, pleaded guilty to one charge of conspiring to make a false statement over a share transaction and paid a record civil penalty of \$100 million.

He could have received up to five years and a \$250,000 fine on the charge, which involved trading in an electrical manufacturers' stock on the London Stock Exchange.

But prosecutors took the unusual step of asking the court for leniency because of "his outstanding cooperation" with the investigation into the

biggest web of illicit dealing ever uncovered in the New York financial world. His information helped London police unravel the Guinness affair.

Information from Boesky, known as "Ivan the Terrible", helped prosecutors in the investigation of his financial tactics in the takeover business, has led to several arrests. Prosecutors said this week that he had revealed that criminal activity including stock manipulation and fraud was rampant among the most respected Wall Street firms.

The New York financial world, battered by the Wall Street collapse in October, is bracing itself for a round of arrests in the New Year.

His lawyer, Leon Silverman, said yesterday that

Boesky had disclosed wrongdoing by five major securities firms as well as 14 "additional subjects" not under investigation when he agreed to cooperate.

The silver-haired Boesky presented himself to the court as a reformed man. Since his deal with the authorities last year he has lived in seclusion, working with the homeless under an assumed name and studying for a degree at a Jewish seminary.

"I just want to say that I am deeply ashamed and I do not understand my behaviour," he told Judge Lasker in a recent hearing. "I have spent the last year trying to understand how I've ended up here."

Judge Lasker's lenient treatment has provoked anger among critics who argued that an example was needed to show that rich and powerful criminals did not get off lightly.

Though his lawyer says Mr Boesky is nearly broke, many on Wall Street believe the \$100 million penalty has hardly dented Mr Boesky's wealth, which still includes houses in Europe and other countries. He also faces a barrage of civil suits.

His sentence is to start next March in a minimum security prison — a campus-type facility for white-collar offenders that is jokingly known as "Club Fed".

Department of trade victory

Clarke made cities supremo

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister acted to end months of Whitehall bickering over the inner cities initiative yesterday by naming Mr Kenneth Clarke as the minister to co-ordinate and present policy.

The announcement was immediately hailed as a victory by senior sources at the Department of Trade and Industry, where Mr Clarke is Minister, and viewed with some disappointment by officials at the Department of the Environment.

It was also seen as heralding a shift towards a greater emphasis on enterprise and jobs in the inner cities.

Mr Clarke yesterday sought to scotch reports of inter-departmental squabbling, saying that none had taken place.

He made clear that final responsibility for the £2 billion set of interlocking schemes covering at least five Government departments would rest with Mrs Thatcher.

His main priority would be to accelerate involvement of the private sector in urban renewal. "The biggest change since the election has been the growing interest of the private sector in working with us," he said. "I intend to build on the contacts I have already developed and to liaise with those companies who have expressed their willingness to support our policies."

Mr Clarke said that in the wake of Labour's election defeat some left-wing councils had turned to the "new

realism" and had dropped their past boycotts of Government schemes.

"If councils are prepared to be pragmatic and work with the Government, we have made quite clear that we think partnership with them will support our efforts," he said.

Mr Bryan Gould, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, was scornful about the announcement.

"It has taken the Prime Minister six months merely to appoint a Minister with responsibility for the inner cities. At this rate the inner cities will wait for ever for the resources and the policy changes which alone can start to grapple with their problems."

Kasparov at bay faces final chessboard duel

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville



A haggard Gary Kasparov and a tense but expectant Anatoly Karpov last night faced each other across the chess board in the final game of their marathon duel to decide the world chess crown for three years to come.

In Thursday's dramatic twenty-third game Karpov swept into the lead and Kasparov, the youngest champion in the history of chess, could only retain his title by scoring a victory in last night's game.

A draw was as worthless to him as a loss.

Kasparov, far from heading for devastating complications in this final shoot-out had steered the opening phase into quiet strategic channels.

His strategy was to retain as much material on the board as

possible and hope to wear down his opponent in a prolonged war of attrition.

Karpov was initially puzzled by Kasparov's restrained attitude and consumed more than an hour over his early moves. But as the two great champions entered the middlegame Karpov began to look confident and self-assured as he navigated towards the exchange of pieces and consequent draw which would once again elevate him to the status of world champion which he enjoyed uninterrupted from 1975 to 1985.

Kasparov's disaster in this match came on the fateful move 50 of the twenty-third game.

In a tense middlegame situation where Kasparov had ingeniously survived intense

pressure to emerge with a substantial counter-attack.

He hurled one of his most valuable units, a rook, into the vitals of Karpov's camp in the mistaken notion that this piece could not be captured.

Karpov promptly proved the champion utterly deluded. He interposed a bishop coup which demolished Kasparov's position, leaving the champion nothing to contemplate but ruins.

Kasparov left the Teatro Lope de Vega, shattered, supported by the arms of two assistants.

Kasparov just might achieve the almost impossible task of winning to order in the final game. Only Emanuel Lasker, the great German champion, had ever accomplished this feat.



Karpov: World chess crown beckons



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Doctors stunned as hospital is ordered to close five wards

By Ian Smith

Proposals to close five wards and 110 beds at the largest teaching hospital in the North-west to prevent a £2.5 million overspend will bring medical catastrophe, a senior doctor said yesterday.

Dr John Leonard, unit general manager at Withington Hospital, Manchester, said surgeons would be restricted to emergency operations, medical students would be refused practical training, patient waiting lists would grow and potentially violent mentally ill patients would be untreated.

Dr Leonard, who is also a consultant physician at the hospital, said: "We are devastated, it is such a huge number of beds to lose at one time. Both doctors and nursing staff are stunned."

One medical, one surgical, one psychiatric and two geriatric wards are scheduled for permanent closure after March 31. The number of patients treated each year will drop by 3,000.

Dr Leonard said both doc-

tors and nurses will be placed under enormous pressure to discharge patients earlier than wished so the fewer beds available can be used for more patients.

Mr Gordon Legat, chairman of South Manchester Health Authority, said the closure decision was made reluctantly at a traumatic meeting. It was necessary to prevent over-expenditure on an £88 million budget that covers three hospitals and area community services.

Mr Legat will meet North Western Regional Health Authority officials next month to discuss alternative budget savings. He has already failed to secure government intervention.

Meanwhile the health authority will receive representations from all professional and voluntary bodies opposed to the closure.

Dr Leonard said: "I want to create as much public awareness as possible about what is going on in the hope that it will build up public pressure

to unlock further resources and stop this sort of thing happening."

"All specialists will be tempted to increase turnover so they can still handle patients in need of attention and this will enormously increase the burden both on them and nursing staff. It is a vicious circle, an extraordinary state of affairs which is causing great unhappiness among hospital staff."

"We really do feel at the end of our tether and believe the health authority announcement will produce a loud outcry from both professionals and the public."

Fifty beds will disappear from the medical and surgery units. Dr Leonard said this will mean patients from fully occupied medical wards spilling over into surgical ward beds, restricting surgeons to emergency operations only.

Waiting lists for non-essential operations, which already mean an average of two years for vascular surgery and between 12 and 18 months for hip replacements, would lengthen.

Because of the loss of 40 beds in acute and long stay or rehabilitation geriatric wards, remaining beds would be at a premium and some patients would be discharged before being able to cope with the outside world.

With 20 beds disappearing from a psychiatric section would shut down and mentally disturbed schizophrenic and depressive sufferers would not receive treatment.

The decision to cut medical services at Withington comes after an announcement that government funds have been allocated to designate Wythenshawe Hospital nearby as the fourth centre for heart transplants in the United Kingdom.

Mr Legat said statistics had proved South Manchester to be an area where every penny was used to its best advantage. "Yet despite repeatedly demonstrating we are extremely effective and efficient we are placed in the extraordinary position of being penalized for our positive results."

TUC urged to act over health service
The TUC is to consider what action it "ought" to be taking over the "crisis" in the health service.

The move follows a letter from Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the largest health service union, Nupe, who wants the TUC "to focus and demonstrate" to the Government the strength of public feeling.

Mr Bickerstaffe said his union had noted with concern the underfunding of vital services.

President to wed her professor



Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, marries a Harvard professor, Mr Richard Neustadt, today.

It will be Mrs Williams's second marriage; her first was dissolved in 1974. Mr Neustadt, aged 68, is a widower with two grown children.

The couple will marry at St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Old Hall Green, Hertfordshire.

Mr Neustadt is the head of the BBC's head of broadcasting for the North-west. Mr Hugh Williams, who is also 41, yesterday at a village church in Oxfordshire.

(Photograph: Alan Weller)

Whitehall's hot line to pin-up girls

By Robin Young

Civil Servants at the Department of the Environment headquarters in London used their office telephones to make more than 1,300 calls to pin-up girls and other telephone entertainment services between August and October.

The calls, mostly charged at the premium rate of 38p a minute, added nearly £840 to the department's telephone bill.

Mr Brian Whitbourn, the

department's information technology officer, has asked the Civil Service unions how the abuse can be stopped.

The department said yesterday: "So far we have had no response. But the problem will be eliminated next June when we are getting a new switchboard which will enable us to block calls to the 0898 exchange on which these information and entertainment services are carried."

Most of the calls went to telephone numbers on which pin-up girls or pop stars could be heard outlining their personal philosophy or providing intimate confessions.

Illicit calls for cricket scores and racing results accounted for only about £15 a month,

Portfolio Gold - Oak trees will mark a prize

The Times Portfolio Gold prize winner is Mrs Anne Irons, of Ladbroke, Wiltshire, East Sussex. She wins £4,000.

Mrs Irons, aged 52, is a retired opera singer. She has been playing Portfolio since its very first day. "Everyone has ridiculed me and told me I'd never win, and this morning I very nearly did not check my numbers. We were going Christmas shopping and my husband, Jack, told me not to bother."

Mrs Irons will spend part of her prize on planting two new oak trees in her garden, to be called "Portfolio" and "The Times". They will replace two 200-year old oak trees which were destroyed by last October's storm.

Mrs Irons and her husband have not had a holiday in seven years and hope to bask in Mediterranean sunshine next summer.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained from:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

NHS managers in cash review call

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Health service managers are calling on the Prime Minister to implement an urgent review of alternative ways of funding and delivering the service.

The Institute of Health Services Management argued yesterday that injecting relatively small amounts of cash and proposing "irrelevant" schemes such as lotteries would do nothing to solve the cash crisis.

It also criticized the lack of leadership from the Department of Health and Social Security, and issued a warning that ministers could not get away with blaming the problems on either managers or doctors.

The institute has already condemned the Government for failing to make the £100 million emergency injection for this year recurrent in next year's funding.

Miss Barbara Young, the institute's president, predicted that if hospitals reopened wards they would have to close them in April when the money ran out. In many authorities the new money will only amount to about £200,000.

Miss Young will press on Mrs Margaret Thatcher the need for more rational long-term planning, rather than measures prompted by political expediency.

One problem is that the chairman of the NHS Management Board is also the Minister for Health, Mr Anthony Newton.

Dr Maureen Dixon, director of the institute, said that there was a limit to the amount that could be achieved by managers locally without support and leadership from the centre.

"We would like to see a more predictable and clearer sense of direction about how the health service is run with more consistent policies."

Together with the National Association of Health Authorities the group is calling for an extra £200 million above the £700 million allocated for 1988-89 to bring spending on the service in line with national growth.

The institute recently set up an inquiry into different systems of health care delivery and funding.

The study, expected to report next summer, will look at a range of options such as imposing a health tax, introducing health vouchers or compulsory private health insurance.

Earlier this week the Commons Select Committee on Social Services also announced that it had decided to hold an inquiry into resourcing the service to "explore the paradox of increased resources on the one hand and on the other, a failure to fulfil long-held expectations about the levels of NHS resources".

A third study on finance from health policy analysts at the King's Fund Institute is expected to report in February.

Rapist traced by genetic test gets 10 years

Nigel Davies, the first man in Britain to be convicted of rape by the genetic fingerprinting technique, was jailed for 10 years yesterday.

Davies, a labourer, had slashed his throat with a razor blade in a suicide attempt in the dock when he was convicted at Mold Crown Court, North Wales, three weeks ago of raping a woman aged 66.

The case had been adjourned for sentence while psychiatric tests were carried out on Davies, aged 25, of Rhydwen Drive, Rhyl. He had a history of attacks on women.

But yesterday reports revealed he was not mentally ill. Mr Justice Jupp, passing sentence at Chester Crown Court, noted that Davies, a bachelor, attacked women with a knife when he was aged 14. One woman died two days after he struck her.

Coroner surprised at no word on baby death

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Dr Joe Pim, the Reading coroner, is to investigate why he was not informed of the death from oxygen starvation of a two-day-old baby at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Sir Gerard Vaughan, the former health minister, has also pressed for an inquiry into the baby's death.

Alexander Davies died on October 4, 48 hours after being starved of oxygen for 10 minutes. His parents and doctors at the hospital claimed that the death was directly linked with a shortage of hospital funds.

Yesterday Dr Pim said he was surprised that the matter had not been referred to him, but it was now probably too late to hold an inquest.

The baby's mother, Mrs Vicki Davies, of Newtown, near Newbury, Berkshire, said

that when her labour began she had to remain in an antenatal ward at the hospital instead of being transferred to the labour ward as it was full.

It is also alleged that one of a series of monitors used to monitor the baby had a flat battery. It was several minutes before staff realized that the baby's heart had stopped, the baby's parents have said.

Yesterday Sir Gerard dismissed assumptions that the baby's death was a result of underfunding.

He said: "The checking of equipment should be routine practice and maternity units should be closed down if people cannot carry out a simple task of checking a battery. This is nothing to do with the overall underfunding of the National Health Service."

Dealer claims Ceruti scoop

A painting which sold for £2,200 at Christie's last sale of the season yesterday may turn out to be a rare work by an important Burgundian painter, and worth £60,000.

It is as though, fate has dealt a gentle equalizer after an embarrassing month for Sotheby's. Both rival firms, Christie's and Phillips, had hit the jackpot with Old Master paintings which Sotheby's had missed.

This painting was catalogued as Dutch, in a five-line entry which says "Manner of Pieter Gerrits van Roestraeten; Trout, a lobster, a bottle of wine, a tankard, a glass of beer, a loaf of bread, estimate £2,000-£3,000". Its buyer, the dealer Derek Johns, of Harns & Johns in St James's, claims it is a quality work by Giacomo Ceruti.

"Before the sale, I felt certain everyone had spotted it, because everything about it

is Mediterranean. The bottle of wine is Chianti, the bread is Italian, it has an Italian knife", a jubilant Mr Johns said yesterday. "I must say, it is a nice Christmas present."

Sotheby's sold a similar painting by Ceruti for £32,000 in 1982, but this year the artist, who was nicknamed Il Pistoletto, or "painter of beggars", has become much more fashionable after an exhibition in Brescia. Mr Johns values his painting at £60,000.

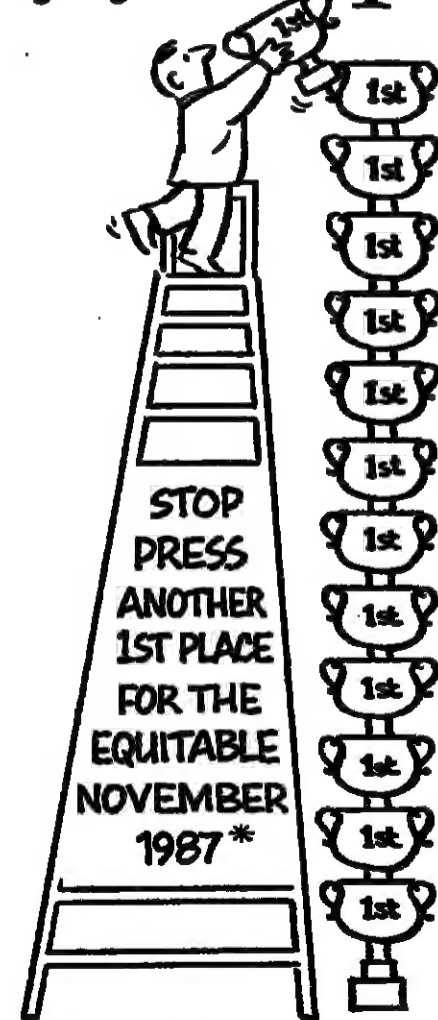
The exhibition included a still life by him with a similar composition. Up to 85 per cent of Ceruti's output was portraiture; his few still lifes all date from early in his life. Christie's secondary Old

Master paintings sale was generally disappointing, with only 56 per cent sold. Top price was £44,000 (estimate £20,000 to £25,000) for a seascape of the River IJ, in Amsterdam, by Abraham Jansz. Storck, and a woodland scene by Jean-Baptiste Pater of a lady enjoying the attentions of her amorous followers fetched £30,800 (estimate £5,000 to £7,000).

Sotheby's reported mixed success with its Russian Works of Art sale, with 34 per cent unsold in the morning, but better news in the afternoon, taking the day's success rate up to 79 per cent.

Top price was £63,800 for a Cretan icon dating from the fifteenth century.

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Prison officers vote strongly in favour of industrial action

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Early results of a national ballot of prison officers show an overwhelming majority prepared to take industrial action, according to a sample taken yesterday.

While 24 branches voted in favour of the strike proposal, only two voted against, one of them narrowly. The sample represented about a fifth of the prison establishments in England and Wales.

Mr David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, predicted a strong vote in favour of industrial action, but said the full results would not be known until next month.

The prison officers believe that the Home Office policy of introducing more civilian staff will damage the recruitment of trained prison officers. They accuse the Home Office of disguising the real shortage of trained officers.

The association's leadership says in a leaflet that a "yes" vote would not necessarily mean an automatic resort to industrial action. However, it would display the disaffection of those voting and, as a result, considerably strengthen the position of the national negotiating body.

If the membership voted in favour, there would be a period of up to 28 days to allow for intensive negotiations. If the difficulties could not be resolved within that time some form of industrial action would take place.

The vote sampled indicates that the prison officers have

not heeded an appeal by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, who said that new working arrangements under the Fresh Start programme would increase professional status and improve the job content and prospects of staff.

"Fresh Start does not change the principles on a dispute between the police and lay prison visitors, which led to police cell visits being suspended, has been settled.

Agreement has been reached at Lambeth, south London, so that prisoners being held at police stations can continue to be seen by lay visitors, who are appointed by the Home Secretary, out of the hearing of the police.

The scheme, the first of its kind when launched in 1984, was suspended by the Lambeth Community Police Consultative Group a fortnight ago after the police insisted on listening to conversations between visitors and prisoners.

There had been general agreement since the scheme's inception to allow the latter views to take place out of the hearing of the police.

Both sides have agreed to a two-month trial period following the established pattern. As in the past, the police will be able to remain within hearing in special cases.

which posts are civilianized but it does make it more important than ever that prison officers should be enabled to concentrate on those

duties which call for their special expertise and skills in the care and control of prisoners", Mr Hurd said.

Officers at two jails took industrial action yesterday. At Brixton, south-west London, officers began working restricted hours from 6.45am yesterday in protest at understaffing. The action will continue until 9pm on Monday.

● Dartmoor prison officers have voted again to tell the Home Office they have no confidence in their governor and want him dismissed.

Association members, who passed a second no-confidence vote in Mr John May, want him replaced to end a long dispute over his more liberal prison regime.

Mr May said he would not leave his post. "Clearly I am disappointed some of the staff still feel this way. There are many staff who were not represented at this meeting."

The Home Office introduced new work practices, which involved less overtime and a promise of more staff, after an earlier no-confidence vote last September.

Mr May had ordered his officers to work on days off to enable prisoners to be allowed out of their cells for evening recreational periods. The officers' association accused him of trying to run "a liberal regime without the staff to do it".

Lord Cailtiness, Minister of State at the Home Office, gave Mr May a vote of confidence in August.

Authority seeks help on Anderton

By Ian Smith

The Greater Manchester Police Authority is to seek counsel's advice on the question of disciplinary measures available against Mr James Anderton, its chief constable.

The authority has been angered by an article in *Woman's Own* in which Mr Anderton was quoted as saying he supported flogging for criminals — though he later said he had been misquoted.

The authority believes that by giving the interview, Mr Anderton broke undertakings

not to make controversial statements without consulting its chairman first.

Measures available include suspension and an inquiry conducted by a chief constable from an outside force to decide whether Mr Anderton, the head of the largest provincial police force, has brought his job into disrepute.

Mr Stephen Murphy, chairman of the authority, said it was considered advisable to learn as quickly as possible what legal options were open

to the authority.

It was decided a legal report outlining available options should be presented at the next meeting of the Police Authority which meets on January 29. Neither party will comment on the article in the meantime.

Depending on the advice given, the authority could institute disciplinary action or apply to the Home Secretary for Mr Anderton's dismissal under section five of the Police Act, 1964.

Imran helps children's charity



Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, with a customer at Harrods, central London, yesterday, where he signed copies of a Christmas card that he designed. The proceeds go to the Save the Children Fund (Photograph: James Gray).

Alliance draft constitution

Format 'scales democratic heights'

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Alliance leaders claimed yesterday that their proposed new constitution for a merged party scaled new heights in internal democracy. They contrasted their draft formula for uniting the Liberals and the SDP with the "autocratic" regime practised by the Conservatives and Labour's unwieldy reliance on the trade union block vote.

They maintained that their open and decentralized formula, reached after 10 weeks of painstaking negotiations, amounted to a microcosm of the kind of free society they would build if they won power.

They made clear that their initial target was a party of 100,000 members with a minimum income of £1 million a year, rather less than the combined strengths of their existing organizations. Nevertheless, divisions be-

tween the Liberals and the SDP were still in evidence as the two centre parties fastened their sights on an historic and lasting union. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said he was confident that the package would be endorsed by an overwhelming majority at the special conferences of both parties.

Mr Robert MacLennan, the SDP leader, was markedly more cautious, saying it was too early to predict the outcome because the two leaders had yet to decide their joint statement of policy. That would be critical in shaping the attitudes of SDP members towards a merger.

After some six weeks of consultation, the constitutional package will be put to conferences of the Liberal Party and the SDP at the end of next month. If, as seems certain, it is endorsed, it will

be put to a secret ballot of the members of the two parties with a launch in March and party conferences in September. The leader would then be elected by postal ballot.

The constitution, which includes a statement of values including a commitment to Nato and the EEC, provides for a party to be called the New Liberal and Social Democratic Party, which may be known as The Alliance. Its provisions include:

- Two-yearly 2,000-strong conferences with the vast majority of voting members elected from local parties, with their numbers being determined by sliding scale depending on membership.
- Election of parliamentary candidates by members at hustings meetings, with postal votes for those unable to attend.
- Special provisions for women. A third of those chosen for parliamentary candidate shortlists and a third of those elected to the ruling federal executive and policy committees must be female.
- A federal structure. Scottish, English and Welsh "state" parties under an American-style federal umbrella.
- A 28-strong federal executive committee consisting of the leader, the president, two MPs, one peer, two councillors, vice-presidents from the three mainland countries, together with one additional representative from each country and 14 members elected annually from the conference.
- A 28-strong federal policy committee producing green and white papers for consideration by the conferences.

Woolwich seeks £8m over tax mistake

The Inland Revenue repaid nearly £57 million tax claimed wrongly from a building society but has refused to pay nearly £8 million interest on the money, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Mr John Gardiner, QC, for the Woolwich Building Society, said the Inland Revenue was effectively saying it was the society's "rough luck" that it paid the tax in the first place. The society had paid the tax demanded under the 1986 Income Tax (Building Societies) Regulations "under protest".

It made a successful legal challenge in the High Court which ruled in July that the regulations were unlawful. The Inland Revenue repaid the tax last month, but with interest only from the date of judgement. Its appeal against the judgement will be heard in the New Year.

The society is seeking to recover the full interest. The hearing continues on Monday.

Boxer faces raid charge

Chris Pyatt, the former British and European light middleweight boxing champion, was accused yesterday of being involved in a £27,600 raid on a jeweller's in Leicester between December 3 and 4.

Mr Pyatt, aged 24, of Scraptoft Lane, and Stuart Stanger, aged 22, a doorman, of Earl Russell Street, both Leicester, were charged with burglary and remanded in custody by Leicester magistrates until Monday.

Court change

In a move to speed the hearing of criminal appeal cases, all applications for leave to appeal against crown court decisions must from January 1 be lodged with the crown court involved instead of the London offices of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division. The applications will be forwarded to the Court of Appeal.

Burial mix-up

An investigation is being sought by Mr Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, Essex, after it was found that a man's body was buried in the wrong grave at Writtle Road cemetery, Chelmsford.

December 18 1987

PARLIAMENT

Pensioners to get £8 payments

Flat-rate payments of £8 will be made to pensioners and other social security claimants because of underpayments arising out of a computer error, MPs were told.

Mr Nicholas Scott, giving details of the payments, said that they were a moral, not a legal obligation on the Government. His statement follows the announcement on Monday that an error had led to miscalculation of the Retail Price Index since early 1986, resulting in an underpayment to pensioners of "about 3p a week".

He said that it would be disproportionately complex and time consuming to try to calculate and pay exactly what each individual had lost. He thought that MPs would want to see the mistake corrected quickly and fairly.

In keeping the promise that the Exchequer would not benefit from the underpayments, between £10 million and £15 million would go to appropriate charities.

In his statement, Mr Scott said that special payments would be made to the following social security recipients: retirement pensioners, supplementary pensioners, those receiving widows' benefits, industrial injuries benefits, war pensioners, invalid care allowance, invalidity benefit, mobility allowance, attendance allowance and severe disablement allowance.

Action to correct benefit rates for all recipients would come at the April 1989 uprating.

Payments will be at a flat rate of £8 — slightly more than the standard £7.85 loss to retirement pensioners — and, in line with their actual loss, £5 for mobility allowance recipients. They will be made in February.

A few severely disabled war and industrially-injured pensioners would lose significantly



Mr Nicholas Scott: 'No legal obligation'

more than £8. They would get extra compensation but that would take longer.

It was estimated that, due to the error, £109 million was underpaid. The payments announced would cost more than £100 million. The remainder would be allocated to suitable charities.

No payments will be made to pensioners of public service occupational schemes administered by central government. The resultant savings to the Exchequer arising from this will be added to the sum to go to charities, bringing it to between £10 million and £15 million. Charities active in support of retired public servants would be among those that could benefit.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, said that though, in the season of goodwill, the House accepted that such errors could occur, it was extraordinary that it had taken 18 months to uncover this error in such an important indicator as the RPI.

Public service pensioners were also long-term claimants and there could be no possible justification for the distinction the minister had made between them and state pensioners "other than the Government's distaste for Civil Servants".

Claimants for unemployment benefit faced the same costs in buying bread and paying for heating as those on state pensions. There were 1.6 million unemployed claimants as at October who had been unemployed since last April. Should they not also be compensated?

Mr Scott said that for public-service pensioners, flat-rate compensation would be inappropriate, and precise compensation would involve administrative costs out of proportion to the sums involved. "The Government has no legal obligation to make these payments — (Opposition protests) — we have a moral obligation. That is why the Government is announcing that £109 million is to be available."

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, said that the only warm response to the announcement would come from the charities that would receive an unexpected windfall. What had been the cost of rectifying the error?

Mr Scott said the administrative cost had been in excess of £5 million, which had been for a broad-brush approach.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, Lab) said that there were pensioners whose spouse had died since the original computing error was made. Would they receive what would have been due to their deceased spouse?

Mr Scott said that because of the speed with which the statement had been brought before the House there were a number of details yet to be finalized. The point would be taken into account.

Mr Meriyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) asked whether special arrangements would be made for payments to the severely disabled.

Christmas fall in demand for hospital beds

London hospitals faced a crisis over Christmas despite the announcement of extra money for the National Health Service, Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) said.

That extra money was itself inadequate, he said, when opening a short debate on the health service in the capital.

He said that beds and wards were being closed over the holiday and that there was a crisis in staffing and morale.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister of Health, said that Mr Corbyn's comments were misleading. Apart from other things, many patients did not care to go into hospital over Christmas, and there was a drop in demand for elective surgery. Many people would rather wait.

Change is lamentably slow in South Africa

The warning lights were now well in sight for violent change in South Africa if the government there did not accept peaceful change, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said at the end of a short debate in the Commons.

The South African Government must be persuaded that change could not be avoided. The rate of change for the better had been lamentably and unacceptably slow.

The British Government regarded apartheid as a repulsive and detestable system and wished to see it ended soon, but there was a limit to what outsiders could do to help. Britain had been scrupulous in implementing all the

restrictive measures to which it had agreed, but such signals were meant to alert the South African Government to the need for change, not to destroy the South African economy.

He was replying to a debate initiated by Mr Bernie Grant (Tottenham, Lab), who said that the British Government had the power to end apartheid and yet it said that apartheid must stay.

The Government had a lot to say to Mr Gorbachov about human rights, but nothing to say to Mr Botha on the same subject.

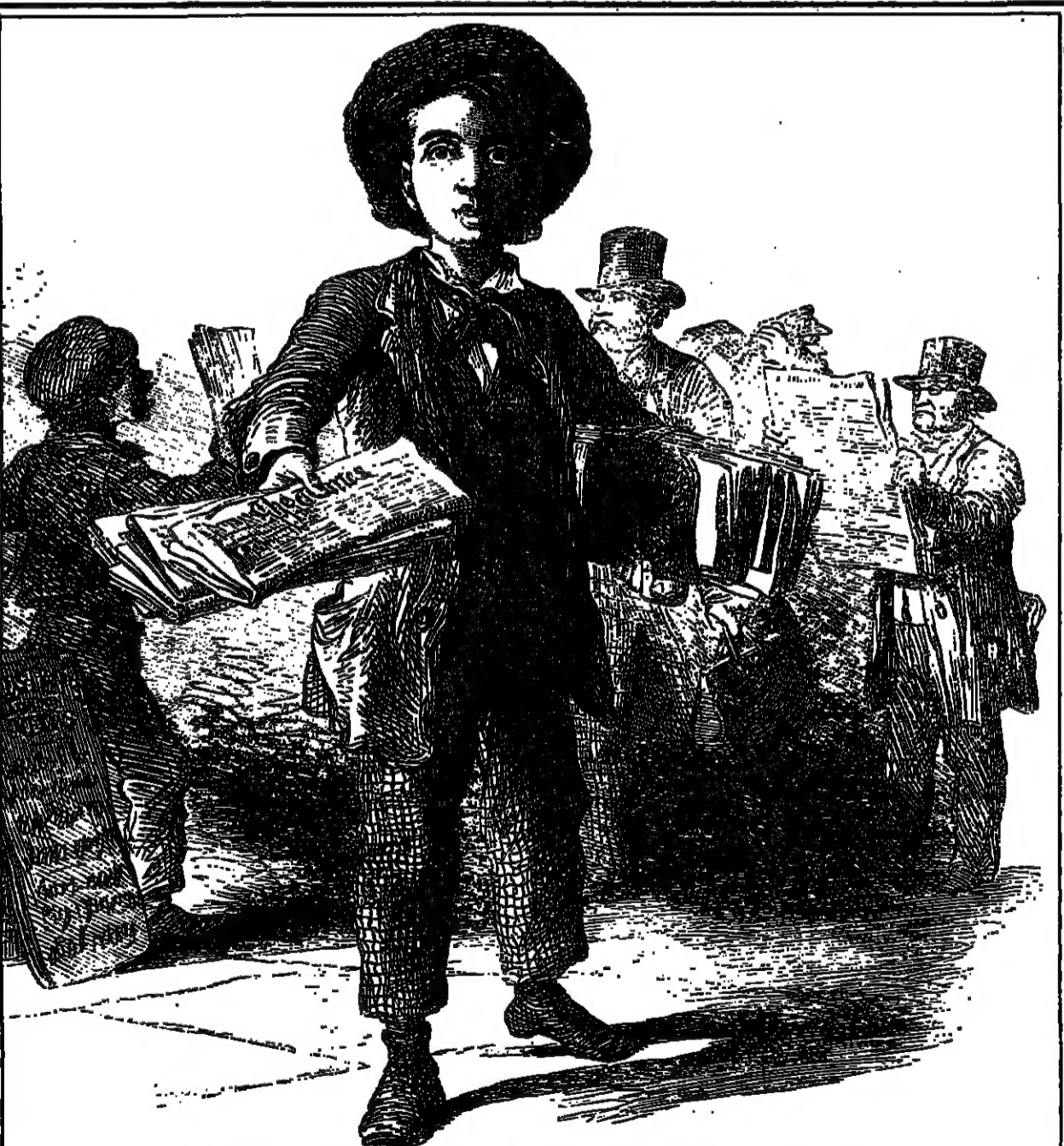
He pledged to continue an uncompromising struggle until the British Government took action.

Hopes rise for some to return to Vietnam

There was now active international discussion of the possibility of returning to Vietnam — with suitable safeguards — those people who did not meet the criteria of refugees, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during a debate. Agreement, however, would be difficult.

Britain had also intensified bilateral contacts with the Vietnamese authorities. So far, it accepted back those who had left, but on a very limited basis.

There could be no question of returning them to a punitive reception, but he believed that over time, their return could be achieved.



THE TIMES

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Tyra Henry case workers will not be disciplined

By David Sagstad

Disciplinary action will not be taken against social workers accused of being involved in a "tangle of professional misjudgement" that led to the killing of Tyra Henry, aged 21 months.

A report, highly critical of social workers, was produced after an independent inquiry into the murder three years ago, but Mr Robin Osmond, director of social services in the London borough of Lambeth, yesterday said that disciplinary action would be irrelevant because so much time had elapsed since the incident.

Similarly, Mr Fred Taggart, chairman of the Labour-controlled council's housing committee, said there was nothing in the report by a panel headed by Mr Stephen Sedley, QC, to justify action against members of the housing department.

The decisions came after a period of disruption by members of Nalco, the National and Local Government Officers' Association, which refused to co-operate with the inquiry and which was mainly responsible for the lengthy delay in publication of the report.

Tyra died in September 1984, after being beaten and bitten more than fifty times by her father, Andrew Neil, who is serving a life sentence.

He had earlier been convicted of blinding and causing brain damage to Tyra's brother Tyrone and, although there was a care order placing Tyra with her grandmother, Lambeth's housing department allowed the mother, Claudette Henry, to get a flat where she lived with the baby.

Mr Sedley's report said: "The overriding responsibility of Lambeth as Tyra's legal parent became lost in the tangle of administrative frustration and professional misjudgement."

The social worker charged with looking after Tyra, Mrs Avon Pailthorpe, has already left Lambeth and is working

for the London borough of Hammersmith.

Mr Osmond criticized the report for failing to look at the question of financing social service work in Lambeth and for failing to take into account the demands placed on social workers in the borough.

He said a combination of pressure, uncompetitive salaries and the high cost of housing in London had meant Lambeth having 53 vacancies for social workers, representing a shortfall of 32 per cent on the establishment figure.

"That means the staff are heavily stretched", he said, particularly as almost 200 new child abuse cases had come on to the books since Tyra died.

"Disciplinary action was raised in the past but, because of the passage of time, it is now irrelevant", Mr Osmond added.

Mr Mike Waller, Lambeth branch secretary for Nalco, claimed that under a proposed council budget, up to 45 social workers' jobs would be cut in the borough and the area office which dealt with Tyra's case would be closed.

He said the council was obsessed with recruitment freezes. "Lambeth council is in internal crisis over resources because it is a rate-capped local authority. Many cases are not being dealt with."

Mr Osmond claimed that many of the report's recommendations had already been introduced, including new procedures for overseeing child abuse cases and for improving communications between council staff.

He said the council would be reviewing its code of practice on the care of black children.

Mr David Jones, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, welcomed many of the report's proposals but said that suggestions to "tinker" with the country's child care laws could only lead to confusion and, possibly, put more lives at risk.

Leonardo cartoon attacker sent to Broadmoor

By Lynda Mardin, Arts Correspondent

A former soldier who smuggled a sawn-off shotgun into the National Gallery and blasted a Leonardo da Vinci cartoon was sent to Broadmoor by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Robert Cambridge, aged 37, of Glen Albyn Road, Wimbledon, south-west London, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to criminally damaging the work in July and possessing the gun with intent.

After his arrest he told detectives: "It was a protest about the general political, social and economic conditions in Britain."

Judge Lowry, QC, sent him to Broadmoor so that he can be properly assessed by doctors

and ordered Cambridge to reappear in court on March 12.

Experts have spent months analysing the damage to the Leonardo cartoon. The National Gallery plans to announce next month exactly how the work, which has an estimated worth of £20 million, is to be treated.

There are several highly technical repair options, but whichever is chosen, the already fragile drawing can never be the same as it was before the damage.

The gallery said last night: "We are not going to make the damage vanish completely, as if it had never been. Probably from the viewpoint of the public, the cartoon won't look too different. But to the expert, these things are obvious under examination."

Repair work will begin on the cartoon, "The Virgin and Child With St Anne and St John the Baptist", in the New Year led by the gallery's chief restorer, Mr Martin Wyld.

Technical advice has been sought from institutions in Britain and abroad and it seems likely an expert will be brought in from the British Museum, to help heal the wound.

The black chalk drawing, dating from the mid 1490s and measuring 56in by 41in, was hanging behind reinforced glass in its own small room, which had a controlled environment, when the gunman fired at the Virgin's bosom.

The glass shattered but the pellets seemed to bounce back into the gallery; an area 6in

square of the cartoon contains tears and fragments of glass.

This was not the first attack suffered by da Vinci's emotive masterpiece. A bottle of ink was thrown in 1962 during the public appeal for £800,000 to purchase the work from the Royal Academy and save it for the nation: the resulting scratches were repaired on the spot. In the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, the eight sheets of paper, pasted together by the artist to contain the drawing, were glued on to a flax canvas in somewhat unsympathetic fashion.

In the meantime, the Virgin remains protected in a special box called her "life support machine".

Ballerina will get to the ball after all

Cynthia Harvey, the ballerina who injured her foot in a hole in a Moscow stage in June, makes her first performance in a full-length ballet since the accident tonight.

Miss Harvey, for whom the injury has meant missing several debuts, gets to the ball at last when she takes the title role for the first time in the Royal Ballet's production of *Cinderella* by Sir Frederick Ashton at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The company was on tour to the Soviet Union when Miss Harvey trapped her foot in a hole in the stage of Moscow's Operetta Theatre during a rehearsal. Her sole appearance since the injury has been in the one-act ballet *The Firebird* last month.

She said yesterday: "I feel better than ever and am delighted to be going back on stage. I hope this will be the first of many roles."

RSC pulls out of Mermaid role

By Lynda Mardin, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company is to withdraw next month from the Mermaid Theatre in London after a year, to concentrate on a restructured operation at the Barbican Centre in the City.

The withdrawal heralds the expected scaling down of productions in London and Stratford-upon-Avon and a reduction in actors employed next year.

The company expanded to the Mermaid at Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, at the beginning of the year in association with commercial producers who guaranteed them against any losses there.

Frank and Waji Gero, the American husband and wife production team, are planning to stay on at the theatre and will bring in Shared Experience's acclaimed production of *Nana* from the Almeida in Islington. Whether they renew their lease after March depends on the production's success.

The Royal Shakespeare

Company said last night: "Our repertory system didn't take off there. The Mermaid was an interesting experiment but basically we feel we would prefer to stay at home base."

A main function of the Mermaid, which has had a chequered history since being founded in 1959 by Bernard Miles, now Lord Miles, was to stage plays from the company's new Swan Theatre at Stratford, including *The Fair Maid of the West* and *The Rover*. They were successful, but the American season (*They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and *The Great White Hope*) was not.

Mr Gero said if the company had not been planning big changes in its schedules, he would have been happy to bring in the new season of plays from the Swan.

The specially constructed Jacobean gallery, one of several structural alterations to accommodate the company at the Mermaid, will be dismantled after January 16.

Rank to offer film TV channel

By Lynda Mardin

The Rank Organisation hopes to persuade the Government to give permission for a subscription television service which would use land-based transmitters rather than satellites.

All a viewer would need to receive the over-the-air service, similar to the successful Canal Plus in France, would be a £30 aerial and a £60 decoder plugged into the television set, and the company might share that expense. Viewers are not required to buy expensive dish aerials.

Subscribers would pay between £8 and £12 a month to be able to see up to six feature films a day, interspersed with mini-series, drama, sport, all free of advertising. Films would be shown about a year after their cinema launch.

The Rank Organisation, Britain's largest

film distributor and one of the leading leisure groups, is prepared to spend up to £100 million on the project and believes it could be in operation late in 1990.

Talks have been held with the Department of Trade and Industry committee which is examining the technical feasibility of having more television channels in Britain. Rank hopes to be given the go-ahead in the forthcoming White Paper on broadcasting.

Mr James Daly, Rank's managing director of films and television, said last night that he believed potential demand amounted to three million households. The plan is to put up a £15 million transmitter centre to broadcast a scrambled signal via the decoder.



Cynthia Harvey in the role of Cinderella with the Royal Ballet (Photograph: Nick Rogers).

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Buthelezi wins defamation case

Johannesburg — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader, was yesterday awarded damages of 12,000 rands (£3,430) for a defamatory article about him from the British weekly, *The Spectator*, which was reprinted in a local magazine (Michael Honyway writes). In the article — written by a British journalist, Stephen Robinson — Chief Buthelezi was described as "nauseatingly pompous and self-important" and his supporters as "among the most thuggish operators in South Africa".

The action was brought in the Durban Supreme Court against Frontline, a monthly with a circulation of only 9,500.

Meanwhile, 10 black policemen and two civilians were wounded yesterday in a gun and grenade attack by at least two unknown assailants in the Nyanga township outside Cape Town. It was the fourth armed attack in less than 10 days on black policemen, who are widely unpopular in the township.

Mafia round-up Anger at spy subs

Palermo (Reuters) — Police here arrested four alleged gangsters yesterday on charges of murder and of belonging to a Mafia clan running an extortion racket.

They were charged with the murder in 1983 of Luigi Soletta, a Sicilian businessman, and the attempted murder of his brother Vitale. Police said that the Soletta brothers had refused to give in to local Mafia gangsters trying to buy land below market prices near the Sicilian capital. The state dealt the Mafia its most severe blow on Wednesday when a Palermo court handed down 19 life sentences and sentenced 319 other mafiosi to 2,700 years in jail.

Tanker war flares

Dubai (Reuters) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked two supertankers in the southern Gulf yesterday and an Iraqi aircraft fired a missile at a ship in Iran's Kharg Island oil shuttle fleet. The missile hit the 249,980-tonne steam tanker Free Enterprise, shipping sources said, and the fully-laden Maltese-registered vessel, called for help.

The Revolutionary Guards, in three speedboats, fired nine rocket-propelled grenades into the Norwegian 290,762-tonne Happy Kari as it neared the mouth of the Gulf with a full load of Kuwaiti crude, and attacked the 280,578-tonne Saudi Splendor, registered in Liberia. No one was hurt, and neither ship sought help, though the grenades started a small fire on the Happy Kari. The crew put it out.

Cambodia Clamp on talks date terror law

Bangkok (Reuters) — The Prime Minister of Cambodia, Mr Hun Sen, will join the exiled guerrilla leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, for a second round of Cambodian peace talks on January 27 in France.

The two first met for talks from December 2-4 and raised hopes for a possible breakthrough in the nine-year conflict. Their four-point outline for peace set up more meetings between them in January and April, but last week the prince apparently cancelled further meetings after criticism from Asian backers.

Good year for truffles

Paris — The first truffles of the season have just reached the market here, and the early word from Périgord and Provence is that there are signs of a good year for the nobles of all fungi (Philip Jacobson writes). While not considered by the savants of absolutely tip-top quality, there will be at least enough to go round among those to whom a price of between £100 and £120 per kg is as nothing for a taste of paradise. The last two harvests were decidedly thin, especially for the most prized black specimens from the Tricastin region, which shot up as a result to £150 a kg.

White House fury at ethics attack

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Senior White House officials lashed out in an extraordinarily bitter reaction yesterday to suggestions that the Reagan Administration is lax on government ethics and that Washington is awash with "loose money" used for influence-peddling.

The outburst followed a wide-ranging attack on ethical standards in government by Mr Whitney Seymour, the independent counsel who was prosecutor in the perjury trial of Michael Deaver, the former top White House aide who was convicted on Thursday.

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that any prosecutor worth his salt "always goes before the jury and tries to posture himself in the most sanctimonious and self-righteous manner possible and it appears that Mr Seymour forgot where he was before a jury."

He went on: "His comments are an insult to the people in Washington. They are an insult to government civil servants, as well as political leaders throughout the country."

He took particular exception to Mr Seymour's criticism of Mr Reagan for having issued a statement after Deaver's conviction in which the President and his wife expressed sorrow for the outcome and praised their long-time personal friend.

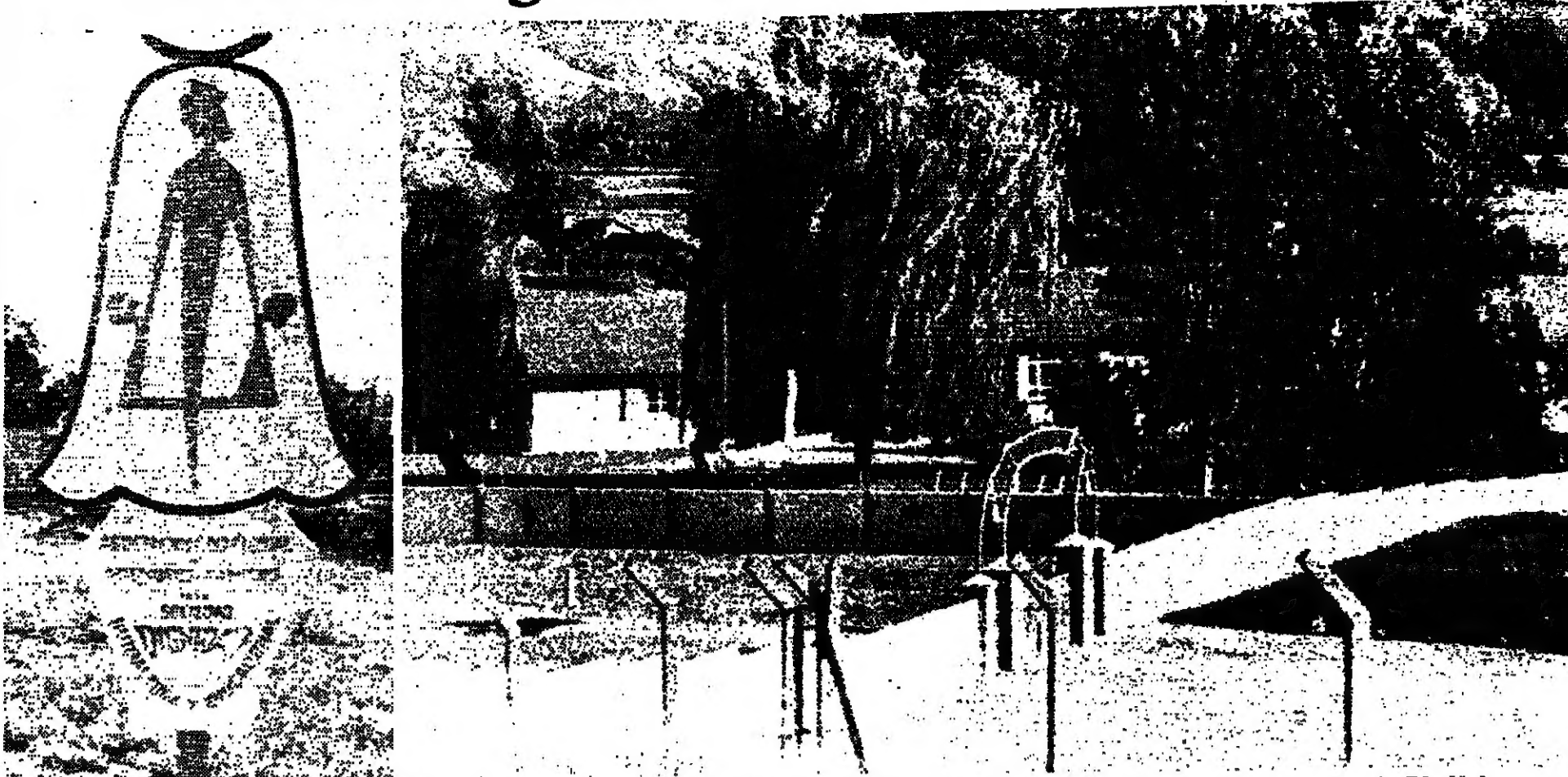
Mr Seymour said the President had "let the country down" by not sending the right message to the American people. Mr Fitzwater, emphasizing personal views, said he found it outrageous that Mr Seymour "would find it wrong for one friend to feel sorry for the hardships of another friend."

After the verdict in the Deaver trial Mr Seymour called a press conference and delivered a scathing assessment of influence-peddling by former government officials and said that the Watergate era Ethics in Government Act, under which Mr Deaver was prosecuted, was riddled with loopholes.

The problem was too much "loose money" and too little concern about ethics in government. "Vast sums of money are on call to representatives of major corporations, defence contractors and foreign governments to buy influence and favours," he said. "Much of that money is paid to consultants whose stock-in-trade is their friendship with persons in high office."

He has sent recommendations to Congress for closing the loopholes and exemptions that he said had made the law too weak.

Unwelcoming face of secret colony in Chile



The colony symbol, left, which critics say is reminiscent of the Nazi Lebensborn selective breeding programme; and, right, the barbed wire and gate guarding the Dignidad property.

Bonn experts look into taint of Nazism

From Lake Sagaris, Parra, Chile

Nearly 200 miles south of Santiago, just past the turn-off to Parra, a lengthy stretch of winding gravel road leads through farmland towards the Andean foothills and a 350-strong closed German — some observers allege Nazi — community known as Colonia Dignidad ("Dignity Colony").

Shrouded in secrecy, it has been the subject of heated controversy since its creation in 1962 by Herr Paul Schaeffer. Spokesmen call it a hard-working society for the benefit of mankind.

But witnesses have told Amnesty International that the place is run like a concentration camp, and was used as a centre for torturing and killing potential critics of the 1973 military coup. Concern in West Germany has led the Bonn Government to send a high-powered special investigation commission to Chile this week. But the colony leaders have refused to meet the delegation. However, newspaper reports in Santiago this week suggested that a representative from Dignidad

would go to Santiago to see the West Germans.

The colony has been accused of condoning child sexual abuse, collaborating with the Chilean secret police, and of constituting a Nazi reserve in Latin America. One Chilean newspaper, *La Epoca*, compared the Dignidad symbol, a nurse with a child clinging to each hand, with the Lebensborn (life-source) sym-

bol for the Nazis' Aryan race reproduction programme. The same report quoted researchers who have compared the colony's set-up to German utopian proposals for creating autonomous, self-sustaining German colonies worldwide.

Herr Hermann Schmidt, the colony's president, insisted in an interview on Chilean television that the Bonn commission members "know that everything they say about us is a lie. So what are they coming here to investigate?"

The large number of child-

ren — about 100 — in the colony has provoked speculation. Even married couples sleep in separate dormitories, sexual relations between young people are strictly prohibited, and people usually marry in their forties, or later. Some researchers have associated the disappearance of some 30 or 40 children from the Bonn area with the colony. Its West German headquarters is in Siegburg near by.

In 1966 Herr Wolfgang Müller, then aged 19, escaped from the colony for the first time. He said that members were forced to work incessantly without pay and that they were beaten, spied on and left to go hungry. He also alleged that the colony had aircraft, a landing strip and large arms caches in the mountains. Herr Müller told the Chilean magazine, *Encicla*, that Herr Schaeffer "is a dictator... Every day a different boy must work as his 'helper', whose duties include sleeping with him". He also claimed that he knew of two former SS officers who now live in the colony.

On Monday members of the commission secretly met

Bishop Carlos Camus, who is in charge of the diocese where the colony is located. According to one Chilean newspaper, they will also meet a German citizen who fled Dignidad in 1984.

On the approach road to the colony, sleek horses and grazing cows are seen for the first few miles. But after the Villa Bavaria turn-off, signs of life peter out. The road gets increasingly lonely. About 25 miles from the highway, my car skidded round a sharp curve, crashed into a wall of dried mud and would not move. A school bus then arrived from the colony. After confirming that the damage was real, the German driver spoke with someone by radio and finally promised help would come. His passengers — ragged, haggard-faced Chilean children — crowded round the window, but said little. A pickup truck with four passengers eventually appeared.

One man hung back, giving instructions to an inordinately tall Chilean who had evidently been charged with checking us. He called himself and his companions "friends of Dignidad", but would not give his

name. Colony members believed that the German commission would visit them that day, and a large demonstration had been prepared in their defence, he explained. "I can't guarantee how they will treat you," he said, when the car was fixed and mobile again.

Four miles down the road, several pickup trucks and a crowd of well-dressed youths, apparently sons of wealthy

landowners of the region, blocked the bridge before the gate to the colony itself.

Cameras clicked and sophisticated video equipment (wielded by two independent crews) whirled at us, while colony "friends" checked our credentials using an intercom. They finally allowed correspondents' vehicles to cross the bridge, but a silent crowd of about 80 people, mostly thin, poorly-dressed farm women, skinny children and elderly men, obviously very poor, blocked the gate.

They held placards aloft, telling the foreigners (commission and press) to go home, accusing them of being Marxists and praising the colony.

Papers materialized, statements signed by colony inmates, attacking the morals of Herr Heinz Kuhn, Herr Georg and Frau Lotti Packmör, and Herr Hugo Bear — former inhabitants who escaped and whose testimony has created this latest furore. They had repeated past accusations that Herr Schaeffer had abusive, sexual relations with children and said that some boys were injected with a liquid to make them sterile.

Franklin Immeigard Packmör, who still lives in Dignidad, accused her brother of having absconded with colony money and a car. In a written but unsigned statement she said that his wife, Lotti, had had adulterous relations with Herr Bear. In a similar statement, Franklin Magdalena Bear, who continues to live in the colony, called her father an alcoholic and a drug addict, as well as a wife-abuser, and demanded the "freedom" of her mother who left with him.

Warning to Israel border police

Elite troops join patrols

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

More Israeli Army officers and troops are being assigned to patrol with border police after the finding of an inquiry that a police unit was responsible for beating and humiliating Arabs in Balata refugee camp, near Nablus, last week. Police officers have been given stern warnings against such conduct in future.

When they stormed into the camp, however, the border police were only living up to their reputation among Palestinians for brutal toughness. Israel recruits to the force extensively from its Druze population not only because they speak Arabic but because they also know Arabic ways.

There is no shortage of recruits, since the force gives a good career and a good wage to people from largely depressed areas. At the same time, since they have chosen to be loyal to Israel, they are hated and regarded as traitors by the Palestinians.

The Druze have shown the world in Lebanon, that they can be brutally tough and resourceful. Their Israeli colleagues are no less so, and they patrol the camps and occupied territories using a combination of fear and fearlessness. For them the rampage through Balata was all in a normal day's work, given the fact that the camp had earned itself a reputation for brutal violence among Israeli security forces.

Although technically police, the force is dressed and equipped just like the Army,

with only its dark green beret revealing the difference. Like the Army, too, they have little or no training or equipment to deal with riots.

This, and a shortage of manpower at a time of violent disturbances, have been why there have been so many casualties, killed and wounded. Rashaya, Lebanon — Guerrillas clashed with Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies yesterday in an attack on Israel's southern Lebanon "buffer zone" (Reuters reports). Security sources said the guerrillas firing rockets and machineguns attacked a post manned by militiamen of the "south Lebanon army" but were beaten back.

Israel radio said that the attackers clashed with an SLA patrol, killing one militiaman and wounding four, and then fought two guerrillas, who killed two guerrillas.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in Beirut that its commandos launched the raid. He confirmed two guerrilla deaths, but said that two Israeli soldiers had also been killed.

by gunfire and injured with brutal beatings.

After complaints by the United States a year ago in quelling the riots, some attention has been given to finding better methods of crowd control. New "scatter" rubber bullets have been in-

troduced, together with more efficient tear gas grenades.

The men themselves, however, are still not trained to use riot shields; they usually walk about in troubled areas without their helmets; they often have only live ammunition available for protection.

Because they are so outnumbered, particularly in the Gaza Strip, things have got out of hand frequently in the past weeks. A small patrol of four or six men, however well armed or trained, is vulnerable to several hundred youths throwing stones. They are bound to start firing live ammunition, given their apparent instinctive disregard for the lives of demonstrators.

The normal army presence in Gaza is just 1,000 men, called on to control an increasingly troublesome local population of 635,000. That number has been increased drastically, but even so it is unlikely that more than 5,000 men are available for service in the area. The extra troops have been drawn from the tough, no-nonsense, battle-trained regiments like the paratroopers and the Givati brigade. These men are the elite of Israel's Army in wartime. They are experts in warfare, but not in controlling riots.

One irony is that Israel produces some of the world's most sophisticated crowd control equipment. It sells well in Western Europe. South Korea is a major customer. But Israel itself does not buy any.

Bonn challenges Thatcher on more pay for farmers

From Richard Owen, Bonn

Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the West German Agriculture Minister, has challenged Mrs Thatcher head-on over the EEC's food mountain crisis by insisting that Bonn's solution — the controversial "set aside" policy — must be given equal weight with other solutions, such as drastic price cuts.

At the EEC's summit meeting two weeks ago in Copenhagen, Mrs Thatcher said flatly that "set aside", under which farmers are compensated for taking land out of production, could be only a complement to "stabilizers", the jargon word for automatic limits to farm output with strict price penalties for over-production.

Herr Kiechle, a dairy farmer from Bavaria, taken over the chair at the EEC Council of Farm Ministers at the end of this month, when Denmark hands over the rotating EEC presidency to West Germany. The prospect arouses deep gloom in Brussels, where Herr Kiechle is seen as an obdurate defender of German farming interests and an obstacle to overdue reform of the common agriculture policy.

Over a solid lunch of meat and potatoes at the Agriculture Ministry, Herr Kiechle said he was still optimistic about the chances of compromise over farm policy at the special EEC summit meeting called for February in Brussels after the impasse at Copenhagen.

This was because the EEC

faced a financial crisis, with no agreed budget for 1988 and an anticipated shortfall of \$4 billion, due mainly to farm spending. But 1987 had been "the most difficult year ever in the history of the CAP", Herr Kiechle said. He himself had been excluded from the annual conference of West German farmers at Aachen in June for having agreed to this year's farm price cuts while simultaneously being pilloried in

these six tonnes to Russia, not counting storage costs," he said. "If we pay our farmers \$400 not to produce the six tonnes at all, the EEC saves money and the farmer still gets his income. Mrs Thatcher can surely understand this simple calculation."

Herr Kiechle said that half of West Germany's 700,000 farmers depend solely on their farms, which represented generations of family tradition. Sixteen thousand smallholders had gone to the wall this year because of EEC cutbacks. "If I am an obstacle, it is in a human cause," he said, thumping the table. "At the EEC Farm Council I always say, how will this or that measure affect the farmer?"

West German farmers had become mistrustful, he said, because, although Bonn bore the greatest budget burden in the EEC, it also suffered the worst farm cuts. Thanks to milk quotas, which involved West German sacrifices, the better mountain had declined from 1.35 million tonnes to 763,000 tonnes.

Other positive signs included the potential use of agricultural products for industrial purposes and the readiness of some farmers to use land for ecological aims. But most surprises were either static or even increasing, and the search for a solution to the farm crisis had to be intensified between now and February.

"We produce six tonnes of wheat per hectare (2.4 acres) in Europe. It costs £600 to sell

Physicist heads for life in London without his snow boots

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent



Miss Wine: Success after 14 years of patient persistence.

WANTED: A kind home in Moscow for one pair of hand-made Russian woven-felt snow boots, thickly rubbed with cod liver oil.

Dr Viktor Faermak, a Soviet physicist, will not be needing them again. After personal appeals by Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan to Mr Gorbachov, he has been told that he is free to emigrate to Britain, where even his fur hat will probably be redundant.

Yesterday, with the temperature in London 20 degrees higher than in Moscow, Dr Faermak was giving away the boots, thermal underwear, a mountain of books and all the possessions a man of 46 might be expected to own. Soviet human glasnost has not yet been extended to belongings. Even his treasured copy of *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* will have to go. The impenetrable mind of Soviet bureaucracy forbade him to post it to London to avoid carrying it out.

Back in London possessions were

the last thing on the mind of Miss Andrea Wine, aged 35, an American management consultant resident in Britain. For the first time Mrs Faermak, as she may now be known, is about to start living with the man she married two years ago.

If the British and Soviet leaders share half the credit for her husband's freedom, the rest belongs to her. It has taken her 14 years of extraordinary persistence against odds that often seemed hopeless. Miss Wine, born in New York of Austrian-origin stock, met Dr Faermak in 1973 while studying Russian at Leningrad University. Both Jewish, they were drawn together.

His future was already behind him, even though he had a PhD to his credit and had worked in the promising field of semi-conductors. From the moment he fell in with the refuseniks and applied to emigrate in 1971, his career prospects vanished.

The same could have been said of

their hopes of marriage until Mr Gorbachov changed the political map. After her return to the West, Miss Wine relied for years on letters and occasional visits to keep the relationship alive. "He applied for permission to leave every three months, but was always refused," she said. The reason given was that he had had access to

President Reagan's first summit meeting with Mr Gorbachov in Geneva in 1984 created the political climate which allowed their marriage to take place in Moscow. But there still seemed little hope of living together.

The final refusal came through in November, a month before the Washington summit. Miss Wine knew that Mrs Thatcher had already raised her husband's case with Mr Gorbachov during her visit to Moscow last spring. With a little help from the American media, she and four other spouses obtained a meeting with President

Reagan four days before the summit meeting. She asked how he would feel if he could not be with Mrs Nancy Reagan. Four hours later the State Department told her they had fixed it. Now the Soviet authorities have confirmed the good news directly to Dr Faermak. He is expected to join her in London in two weeks.

"It is so commendable of Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan," Miss Wine said yesterday.

But what of her own persistence? "I just seemed the natural thing to do. If I hadn't wanted it enough, I wouldn't have done it," she said.

Many held: Mr Mykola Rudenko, the prominent Ukrainian dissident who arrived in Munich from the Soviet Union on December 13, yesterday said that many Soviet citizens were still imprisoned for their beliefs, and that "the most terrible prison in the world", the notorious Perm "special regime" camp, was still functioning (Alexander Johnson writes).



With a subtle change of rules, the sheep was revived in the Oldbury Green Wildlife Trust competition.

SHEEP DIP
An 8-year-old pure-bred Scottish Whisky much enjoyed by the Villagers of Oldbury-on-Severn

Desperate Democrats hunt for viable White House challenger

The crisis in the Democratic Party borders on the absurd. With only 11 months to go, there is still not a viable Democratic presidential contender. The party is stuck far now with the former Senator Gary Hart, one of the most distrusted politicians in America, as its front-runner. The Rev Jesse Jackson, who is uncharacteristic, is a close second. The rest of the seven-man Democratic pack is notable only for its stunning mediocrity.

Unless the Democrats find a serious challenger, they will lose the White House for the fifth time in 20 years. America is not in the mood for protest candidates like Mr Hart and Mr Jackson; they want a "Cicero" and he is playing coy. So the net is being thrown wider and some new names are

being drawn in: Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia and Mr Thomas Foley, the powerfully impressive Democratic leader of the House of Representatives.

A latecomer has tremendous disadvantages in any normal presidential race, but this contest is not normal. Between them Mr Hart and Mr Jackson have enough support in their respective yuppie and black constituencies to delay, and possibly to block, the emergence of a bona fide front-runner from the present drab team. Yet Mr Hart does not have much chance of ultimate victory and Mr Jackson has none. They lead the pack because they are well-known, not because they are popular.

Democrats are desperate for alternatives. A charismatic new entrant, boosted by good will and a surge of publicity, might be able to break through in the bigger primaries and caucuses. Or he might wait for his opportunity at a deadlocked Democratic convention, which has

Washington View

By Christopher Thomas

become a real possibility now that Mr Hart has re-entered the race and gummed up the process. It is suspected widely that Governor Mario Cuomo of New York is playing just such a waiting game. He demurs, of course, in an unconvincing way, which only

adds to the Democrats' disarray. Senator Bradley is a solid Easterner, articulate and mainstream. Senator Nunn, a Southerner, is reasonably well-known nationwide because of his respected expertise on defence. Representative Foley, a Westerner from Washington state, is one of the best television performers on Capitol Hill. He knows European leaders well; his knowledge of world affairs is impressive. He was the only politician in Washington invited by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev last week to breakfast, lunch and dinner.

While the Democratic hierarchy ponders its next move, Mr Hart is banking on winning the New Hampshire primary on February 16. If he loses, his bid will probably

wither and die right there in the snows of Concord. If he wins, he will make it immensely difficult for anybody to become the legitimate Democratic front-runner.

And he does stand a good chance of victory, simply because New Hampshire is so untypical. It is small and suited to a lean campaign. Mr Hart is well-known from his surprising 1984 victory there over Mr Walter Mondale. A penniless outsider can make it in New Hampshire.

Mr Hart has no money for advertising campaigns, but he will command what political people call "free media" — what others call news. The cameras will trail him everywhere. Even though his campaign themes of education and

military reform are far too complex and serious for the nightly news, the "character issue" will remain newsworthy for a good while yet. Senator Edward Kennedy's Chapquidick, after all, lasted for years. Mr Hart will have no trouble keeping on the air waves, even if the publicity is not to his taste.

The Democrats' campaign has already been trivialized by Mr Hart's re-entry. Columnists are tantalized by him; they analyse the man more than his politics. One accused him this week of acting out teenage fantasies. Another said that his ambition overrode every other consideration. He is described as "risk-addicted". It is said that, after 16 years in politics, he has decided to come back and act out the end of his personal story. He alluded to

that himself this week: "I had to finish off what I began." The next chapter will be in Iowa, on February 8. Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts is favoured in the polls to win that critically important caucus; if he does so, and eight days later makes a good showing in New Hampshire, he could start squeezing out Mr Hart. The Democratic national committee prays that something of the sort will happen. It wants Mr Hart stopped, and soon.

But for now, according to an ABC news poll, Mr Hart and Mr Jackson together control 50 per cent of the Democratic primary vote. It is an astonishing paradox that they also carry the highest disapproval ratings from the broader electorate.

Cross-border tension in East Africa

Moi expels Uganda envoy and closes Gadaffi's embassy

Kenya yesterday ordered the expulsion of the Ugandan High Commissioner and the closure of the Libyan Embassy in Nairobi, after this week's heavy exchanges of fire along the Kenya-Uganda border.

The move marks a nadir in relations between the two Commonwealth countries, which have been engaged in an increasingly vitriolic propaganda war since 1984.

Earlier this week fierce gun-fire was exchanged for three days across the border, and more than 16 people are reported to have died.

Several explanations have been offered for what precipitated the worst clash between Kenya and Uganda for years. In one version, Ugandan soldiers crossing into Kenya to settle a score were said to have been shot dead by Kenyan police.

Another report had Kenyan paramilitary forces crossing into Uganda to dismantle a roadblock. A third version was that the Ugandan Army, tipped off about a major smuggling operation, had stationed four soldiers too near the border.

The closure of the Libyan Embassy reflects the prevalent Kenyan Government belief that Colonel Gadaffi is using Uganda to undermine the regime of President Moi. Kenyan newspapers have, in their reports of the gun battles, made a number of unsubstantiated claims that Libyans were involved in the fighting on the Ugandan side.

The announcement of the expulsions, like everything else in this mushrooming episode, was clouded with confusion. The Kenyan Foreign Ministry yesterday said that Mr Charles Katungi, the High Commissioner, was being expelled because on Wednesday, the third day of the border clash, he had accused the Kenyan President of lying in his account of the incident.

That, at any rate, was how the Kenya Times, the official newspaper of the ruling party, reported his remarks. This provoked outrage in the Kenyan Parliament on Thursday. MPs who had read only the newspaper account demanded that Mr Katungi should be deported.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday described the Commission's words as "an incredible insult on the person of President Moi". The Ugandan diplomat and his deputy, Mr Samson Bigombe, were given 24 hours to leave.

From Paul Valley, Nairobi

But later, Mr Katungi held a press conference at which he maintained that he had said no such thing. He had merely distributed copies of a speech in Kampala by President Museveni which had spoken of "false allegations" but made no mention of "lies".

Mr Katungi said he had twice explained all this to the Foreign Ministry, but they had refused to listen. Allegations about Libyan activity at the border were "absolutely ridiculous", he said. "I am totally puzzled as to why relations have reached this unfortunate stage."

The Libyan Embassy was being closed, according to the Foreign Ministry statement, because "it has been used consistently for gross interference in the internal affairs of Kenya". Libya has long been a favourite bogey of Kenya, which has for many years



President Mwesi: Links with Mr Moi never cordial.

accused Tripoli's diplomats of spying or of inciting dissent against the Moi regime.

The Libyan Ambassador, Mr Ahmed Khalifa Arraj, was expelled on December 3 after violent clashes between the police and students which the Government claims were Libyan-inspired. The leader of the student union was subsequently jailed for five years after allegations that Libya had given him £700 to finance his campaign for office in return for his services as a spy.

The Libyan Embassy has since remained open only under an administrative officer.

Only eight months earlier, the previous Libyan Ambassador and four other diplomats were expelled after similar allegations. Not long afterwards, Nairobi claimed that Colonel Gadaffi was training more than 200 exiled Kenyans to bring about the overthrow of President Moi. It also claimed, again without producing evidence, that the 200 had been given Ugandan passports to travel to Libya.

Western diplomats in Nairobi are sceptical about the seriousness of Libyan activity. One said: "There is a fairly fine line between spying and gathering information in the way which is part of a diplomat's normal duties. The difference is often in the eye of the beholder."

There was no immediate news of the position of the Kenyan High Commissioner in Uganda. But reports from Kampala said that the Ugandan Army High Command was issuing firm statements about the need to stand resolute against Kenyan blackmail. Some 12 Ugandan civilians had been killed in the border crossfire, in addition to the deaths of three Ugandan soldiers and a Kenyan civilian announced earlier.

Other reports said that petrol rationing had already been introduced in Uganda, which has no warehouse reserves and depends for its entire supply on traffic across Kenya from the port of Mombasa.

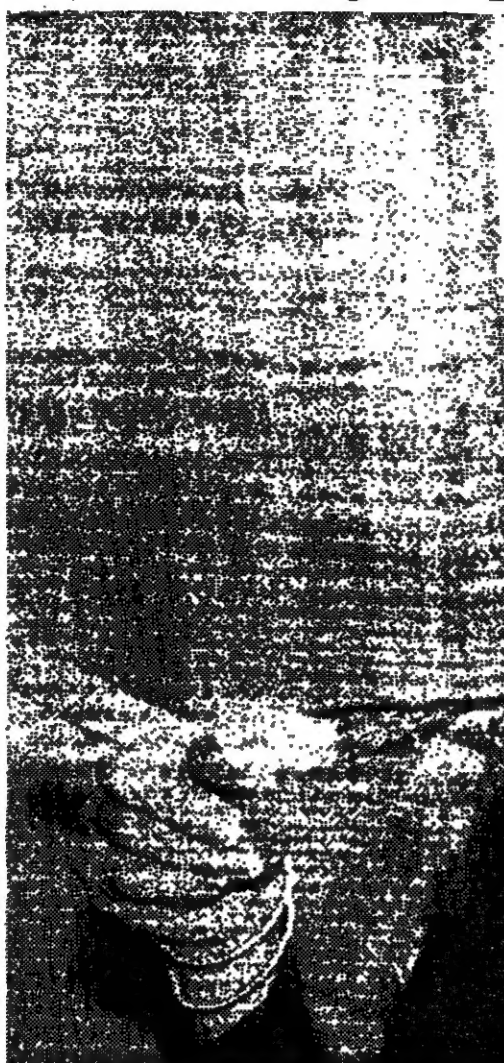
Relations between President Museveni of Uganda and President Moi of Kenya have never been cordial. President Moi is understood to have felt humiliated by President Museveni's actions after the 1985 peace conference hosted by Kenya to end the Ugandan civil war. After reaching an agreement, President Museveni returned to Uganda and largely ignored its provisions, taking the opportunity to trounce his opponents.

President Museveni later made some general remarks about "big fat-cat African leaders" who were lining their pockets and not helping their people. That caused great personal offence to President Moi, who believed it had been directed at him.

An aggravating factor for the dispute, cited by many observers here, is that President Museveni plans to reduce the use of lorries to export Ugandan coffee via Mombasa, and instead to rehabilitate Uganda's shaky railway system. This annoyed the large Kenyan trucking industry in which many government ministers, including President Moi, are said to have shares.

Until this week, however, the venom had been largely verbal. At the Commonwealth leaders' summit meeting in Vancouver in October, Kampala put out feelers for a meeting between the two presidents. It did not take place, but officials did meet and the political climate improved greatly.

First Lady hopes for Leningrad visit



Mrs Nancy Reagan, the US First Lady, emphasizing a remark during a White House interview in which she said that the President was pleased with the outcome of last week's summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. She brushed aside reports that her relationship with Raisa, the wife of the Soviet leader, was cool, and said she had told Mr Gorbachev that she would like to see Leningrad and the Hermitage art museum. "I didn't get a 'yes'. I don't think I got a 'no', either," Mrs Reagan said. In a wide-ranging, sometimes emotional interview, Mrs Reagan said that she agreed with Mr Gary Hart — who has just re-entered the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination — about his relationship with a Miami model, Miss Donna Rice — that a politician has a right to a private life. She told the Associated Press news agency that the intense scrutiny of candidates will "make it awfully hard for good people to go into politics". She also looked back at the troubles of 1987 and said: "It's not been a

great year. It's been the lowest I think you can get." Mrs Reagan expressed sorrow over the felony conviction of long-time friend Michael Deaver, and said she and President Reagan had been advised by counsel to suspend their personal relationship with him as long as appeals were pending. She had a cancerous left breast removed in October and suffered the loss of her mother, Edith Luckett Davis, nine days later. "I wish I had had a little more time to recuperate before mother died," Mrs Reagan said tearfully.

national interview, Mrs Reagan said that she agreed with Mr Gary Hart — who has just re-entered the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination — about his relationship with a Miami model, Miss Donna Rice — that a politician has a right to a private life. She told the Associated Press news agency that the intense scrutiny of candidates will "make it awfully hard for good people to go into politics". She also looked back at the troubles of 1987 and said: "It's not been a

Prague to be denied a second Spring

Prague (AP) — Czechoslovakia's new Communist Party leader, Mr Milos Jakes, has vowed not to revive the Prague Spring reforms, which were crushed by invading Soviet troops in 1968, in a speech that gave little indication whether he will rush into Gorbachev-style reforms.

In his first speech after taking over from Dr Gustav Husak as party leader on Thursday, Mr Jakes gave a pledge of "uncompromising struggle" against corruption and said he wants to work in a "democratic creative atmosphere".

A full text of the speech, released only yesterday by CTK news agency, contained little indication that the conservative Mr Jakes will speed reforms in Czechoslovakia. The Prague leadership has been cautious about following the reforms of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, which are similar to many of the ideas espoused by Dr Husak's ousted predecessor, Mr Alexander Dubcek, in the Prague Spring.

As the man responsible for the purge of half a million party members after the invasion by Warsaw Pact forces in 1968 crushed Mr Dubcek's reforms, Mr Jakes took a firm stand against any suggestion that current reforms would

resemble the changes mooted then. He urged the party's 1.7 million members to unite and resist what he called attacks from abroad in connection with the 20th anniversary of the 1968 reforms, which began in January that year.

He went on to emphasize the orthodox Communist tenet that the party must control both personnel matters and

the economy, apparently ruling out any key role for non-Communists.

Mr Jakes, who headed the party's economic commission for six years until replacing Dr Husak as party leader, said four new laws designed to introduce cautious reforms would be put before Czechoslovakia's rubber-stamp Parliament early next year.

This indicated further delay in adopting even the careful reforms Prague has made to date to loosen its economy and improve performance.

Czechoslovak officials have said for the past year that their economy is performing poorly and needs reform.

Under Dr Husak, Czechoslovakia gained a reputation abroad as one of the Soviet bloc nations dealing most sternly with dissent, cracking down on human rights and religious activists and the promoters of culture independent of the state-run arts and media.

Leading article, page 11

Clamp on aircrews after US disaster

Washington — US airlines have been ordered to put all employees through the same detection equipment as passengers (Christopher Thomas writes). The order follows the crash of a commuter jet in California, after the pilot was apparently shot by a disgruntled former airline employee whose hand baggage had not been searched.

A hand-gun was found in the wreckage of the Southwest Airlines plane, which crashed on December 7 after the pilots reported shooting on board. All 38 passengers and five crew were killed.

The rule, ordered by the Federal Aviation Administration, takes effect on Monday and covers air crew and ground staff, and will also affect foreign airlines operating at US airports. At present, crews and other employees walk around checkpoints in uniform or when wearing an airline identity badge.

Guerrilla goes

Berne (Reuters) — Switzerland extradited to West Germany Gabriele Tiedemann, a guerrilla of the Red Army Faction, who had served two-thirds of a 15-year jail term for wounding two border guards.

Death by fire

Dhaka (Reuters) — Mrs Niljan Bibi, 120 the oldest citizen of Bangladesh, was burned to death by unidentified attackers who set fire to her home apparently because of a land dispute.

Call of despair

Sydney (Reuters) — Two Australian seamen drowned when their submarine dived while they were in the conning tower tried desperately to telephone for help, an inquiry into their deaths heard.

Barter deal

Pretoria (AFP) — South Africa and Malawi have signed a \$5.5m (£3m) barter trade agreement — 20,000 tons of South African maize for 10,000 tons of Malawi peanuts — the first such agreement between the two countries.

Shock of life

Oernes, Norway (AP) — A Swedish doctor restarted the heart of a woman aged 50 after a cardiac arrest by giving her electrical shocks from a wall socket, using aluminium foil and the cord from an office lamp. She is said to be recovering well.

Rail protest

Madrid — Most Spanish trains stopped intermittently as employees of the state-run railway network began a series of work stoppages in a dispute over employment conditions.

Drought adds to Ortega's woes

From David Gollob, Managua

Although Nicaragua is entering one of its worst crises in recent years, with 400,000 people facing possible starvation, the Sandinista Front remains firmly entrenched in power.

Crop failure brought on by drought has resulted in an 80 per cent loss of production in food staples, forcing the Government to declare an emergency in three regions and to appeal for urgent international assistance.

Shortages have already caused the collapse of the Sandinista Government's subsidised food distribution network in several population centres, while inflation is galloping out of control.

A new 20,000-córdoba (40p) banknote issued two months ago has already lost nearly half its value on the black market. A 50,000-córdoba note entered circulation this week.

A 100 per cent rise in the minimum wage, announced at an assembly of Sandinista trade unions last week, has already been eaten up by leaps in official food prices.

The admission by government officials that there was no short-term solution to the economic crisis caused anger and consternation even among militant Sandinista labour

leaders, according to a source at the meeting.

Discontent and bewilderment over sudden policy reversals in recent months have affected morale among rank and file Sandinista militants. Meanwhile, the recently published allegations of a top Sandinista defector "may cause disillusionment and a shake-up in the party structures", according to a source close to the Sandinista leadership.

Major Roger Miranda, until his defection two months ago the personal aide to General Humberto Ortega, the Defence Minister, has said that the minister has a private Swiss bank account containing \$1.5 million (\$225,000) in army funds diverted for his own use. The defector also alleged that senior Sandinista officials had received bribes from drug-traffickers.

Major Miranda's revelations of government plans for a big military build-up, including the arming of nearly every able-bodied man and the acquisition of advanced weapons systems from the Soviet bloc, have caused alarm among party moderates, who fear that the country has embarked on a course of uncontrolled military growth that will ultimately prove to be self-destructive.

The revelations favour the

Reagan Administration's efforts to win congressional approval for a further \$270 million in funding for the Contras.

At the same time, party hardliners are unhappy over what they see as a willingness



President Ortega: Change of mind on talks with Contras to make too many concessions in order to achieve a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

The decision on November 5 to begin indirect ceasefire negotiations with the Contras, a significant reversal in policy, was opposed by the powerful Interior Ministry, the source said, while a partial unilateral ceasefire declared in October angered senior military officers.

Bowing further to pressure, President Ortega announced on Wednesday that face-to-

face talks between the two sides' technical advisers would take place when ceasefire negotiations resumed in the Dominican Republic on Monday. The Government had previously ruled out direct talks.

The political crisis resulting from the breakdown this week of dialogue with Nicaragua's civilian opposition is the least of the Government's worries. The negotiations, mandated by the Central American peace plan, were meant to achieve a national consensus on democratic reform. The talks collapsed after the Government rejected a 17-point opposition proposal for constitutional reform.

"The people don't care about the dialogue," the source said. "The traditional opposition speaks a foreign language. If you were intelligent you could get a lot of people out on the street in demonstrations, but the opposition alienates people."

Visiting US congressmen, US embassy staff and reporters nearly outnumbered demonstrators at a recent anti-government rally in Managua. Similarly, the turnout at other anti-government demonstrations in recent months has been much lower than the level of discontent would lead one to expect.



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Contrasting results of the government victory in South Korea's election

Students and police in pitched battle over 'ballot rigging'

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Mounting anger at the result of South Korea's presidential election sparked a pitched battle between riot police and students in an industrial district of Seoul yesterday, followed by a series of running clashes in the city centre.

The fighting began when about 2,000 students and other dissidents occupied a municipal office where a ballot box, said to contain absentee votes, was awaiting transport to a counting station. The protesters claimed the box was filled with false voting papers and was one of many which had ensured victory for Mr Roh Tae Woo, the ruling party's candidate, in Wednesday's election.

Thousands of police stormed the five-storey building at dawn, backed by volleys of tear-gas grenades and high-pressure jets of water.

Forced to retreat to the roof, about 100 students started a fire and fought off two police assaults with rocks, roof tiles and petrol bombs before being overwhelmed. At the height of the two-hour battle, thick

mattresses were laid around the building when demonstrators threatened to jump from the roof.

A police spokesman said later 36 people had been injured, 24 of them policemen, and 12 vehicles parked nearby had been destroyed by fire. More than 1,000 people had been arrested.

Shortly afterwards, about 1,000 students who had gathered at Yonsei University tried to march to the City Hall plaza for a protest rally, but found their way blocked.

The crowd dispersed into small groups which then clashed with security forces.

Similar violence raged for the second day in the southern city of Kwangju, the stronghold of the opposition leader Mr Kim Dae Jung. A correspondent of *The Times* at the scene said the mobs also turned their anger on American reporters. Police reported 230 arrests after demonstrations in 11 other provincial cities on Thursday.

President Chun Doo Hwan,

who is due to step down in February, issued a strongly worded statement saying the security forces had exercised restraint during the election period. Clearly feeling that by sparing the rod he had spoiled the child, Mr Chun said: "The Administration will now deal sternly with any and all illegal and disorderly acts. We should all rid ourselves of the election fever and get back to productive work."

The opposition has bitterly rejected the official count, which gave Mr Roh victory over his two main opposition challengers by almost two million votes.

A delegation of US congressional aides who observed the poll said yesterday its members had witnessed several abuses, ranging from bribery and corruption to violence.

In an attempt to defuse the situation, Mr Roh offered yesterday to meet the opposition leaders to discuss democratic reforms due to be implemented when he assumes office.



A student throwing a petrol bomb at riot police during a Seoul protest against the poll result.

Shares soar as Roh win lifts Seoul economy

From Our Own Correspondent, Seoul

In contrast to the political furor sparked by the South Korean presidential election, the result has boosted confidence in the country's economic future.

The victory of Mr Roh Tae Woo, of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, has been greeted with cautious optimism by the business community, which expects him to pursue the successful economic policies of the incumbent Government.

Their reaction quickly became evident from soaring share prices on the Korea Stock Exchange as early results gave Mr Roh a substantial lead. The Composite Stock Price Index rose a record 19.27 points to close at 491.44.

Expectations that the Government will move to boost the market to celebrate Mr Roh's election success, coupled with rumours of imminent measures to curb real estate speculation, contributed to the bull market.

South Korea's main economic organizations welcomed the result, while calling for improved industrial relations, commodity price stability and easing of frictions with major trading partners.

The Federation of Korean Industries said: "Our business community will exert further efforts to expand investments and to realize industrial democratization on the basis of political and social stability."

The economy has expanded rapidly with low inflation under the Government of President Chun Doo Hwan, with annual growth rates of 12 per cent in the past two years, fuelled largely by an export boom.

Mr George Robinson, a securities analyst with the W.J. Carr group, said there was a general feeling that the economy would continue to be well managed and remain reasonably strong to resist outside pressures.

"Business leaders do not feel threatened by Mr Roh the way they did by the opposition candidates. They are very happy to have him in power, and are more confident about investing profits."

Critics of past and present governments contend that South Korea's economic advances have been realized at the expense of its labour force, which has been the backbone of its strategy of low-wages and high exports.

In keeping with his policy of controlled democratic reforms, the president-elect has advocated the formation of independent trade unions, more employment opportunities for the elderly and a gradual

transfer of state enterprises to the private sector.

He has also pledged a more equitable distribution of income and improved social benefits for workers, but has warned against excessive wage demands and protest violence, which could damage exports.

Amid the general euphoria, however, there is concern about inflation, labour unrest and strained trade relations with the United States.

Within hours of the election, Mr Sakong II, the Finance Minister, instructed his officials to withdraw from circulation money released by presidential candidates and their parties during the election campaign.

The Central Bank estimated that more than \$1 billion was pumped into circulation in December, resulting in inflationary pressure.

Consumer prices have risen by 6 per cent in the past year, exceeding the Government's target of 4-4.5 per cent.

Mr Roh will be hard pressed to restrain wage demands, after agitation by workers last summer which resulted in their securing increases of about 20 per cent.

Mr Robinson said: "The unions will want to confront

Seoul (Reuters) — Final poll figures last night showed Mr Roh Tae Woo the winner with 8.28 million votes (36.6 per cent); Mr Kim Young Sam second with 6.34 million; and Kim Dae Jung third with 6.11 million.

Roh and extract the maximum concessions from him. Employers are anxious. They know they will be lucky to get away with 10 per cent next year."

South Korea is also under external pressure, notably from the United States, to devalue its currency and to reduce its surplus in trade between them, which is expected to exceed \$4.4 billion this year.

Washington has been threatening to curtail Korean imports unless Seoul takes more concrete steps to open its markets to American companies. During a visit to the United States earlier this year, Mr Roh indicated that his administration would do so, but at a slower pace than the Americans would like.

He also suggested that Korea was being unfairly victimized due to America's inability to solve its problems with the Japanese. His remarks struck a positive chord in Korea's business community, which is now looking to him to fulfill his pledges.

Letter from Harare

A sudden rage for pangolins

The heads of Zimbabwe's numerous sectional interests are reported to be scowling at an object that appears to be intruding more and more into the busy schedule of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

On four occasions this month, Mr Mugabe has slipped out of his office for televised engagements while private-sector chiefs, ministers and foreign diplomats were left pleading with his private secretary for an appointment.

The diversion has been created by the pangolin, an armoured-plated creature with a tongue as long as its body, whose only defence against predators is curling up into a tight ball and emitting a foul odour.

A nocturnal animal, the pangolin — or scaly anteater — has become a *cause célèbre* in the past three months. Peasants from all over the country have been turning up at the steps of Mr Mugabe's office at the Munhumutapa building to present him with pangolins.

He has been given 23 so far, 19 of them since October. Mr Simon Muzenda, the Deputy Prime Minister, has taken delivery of eight, and President Banana has received three.

Each time the local press is notified and turns up at the respective leader's residence or at Parliament to record the handover for the nation. The offering, doubtless traumatized after a lengthy bus trip from some remote corner of the country, is filmed as it curls up in terror.

What is turning into a national joke — township prostitutes, also regarded as a "lucky catch", have been nicknamed pangolins — has its roots in the centuries of tradition among Zimbabwe's dominant Shona-speaking people.

The flesh of the pangolin is regarded as the sweetest and most tender of all animals, and the local chief is considered the only person fit to eat it. Any commoner killing it will anger the ancestral spirits and cause a drought. Usually the chief rewards the giver with one of his daughters or a couple of oxen and roasts the skinned beast over a fire.

But the technocratic and conservation-minded Mr Mugabe has none of this. The giver is rewarded with no more than a "thank you" and the satisfaction of appearing in a 10-second spot in the evening television news. The gift pangolins are then handed over to the Department of National Parks, and deposited in a game sanctuary outside Harare.

The *Chronicle*, the daily paper in the western city of Bulawayo, raised eyebrows with an editorial arguing that the custom had less to do with expressing esteem for the chief than currying his favour.

One anthropologist here has suggested that the phrase "beware of peasants bearing pangolins" summed up the rage. The issue has captured the imagination of local cartoonists. The *Chronicle's* Boyd Matiki depicting a line of plump businessmen queuing outside a "rent-a-pangolin" service.

Conservationists, too, have been stirred and question what the rash of pangolin-napping has done to its population in the wild.

The animal occurs in widely scattered pairs and produces a limited litter. Attempts to rear them in captivity have resulted in a high death rate. If the rash of presentations continue, conservationists fear that the shy and harmless creature will rapidly become extinct in Zimbabwe.

Jan Raath



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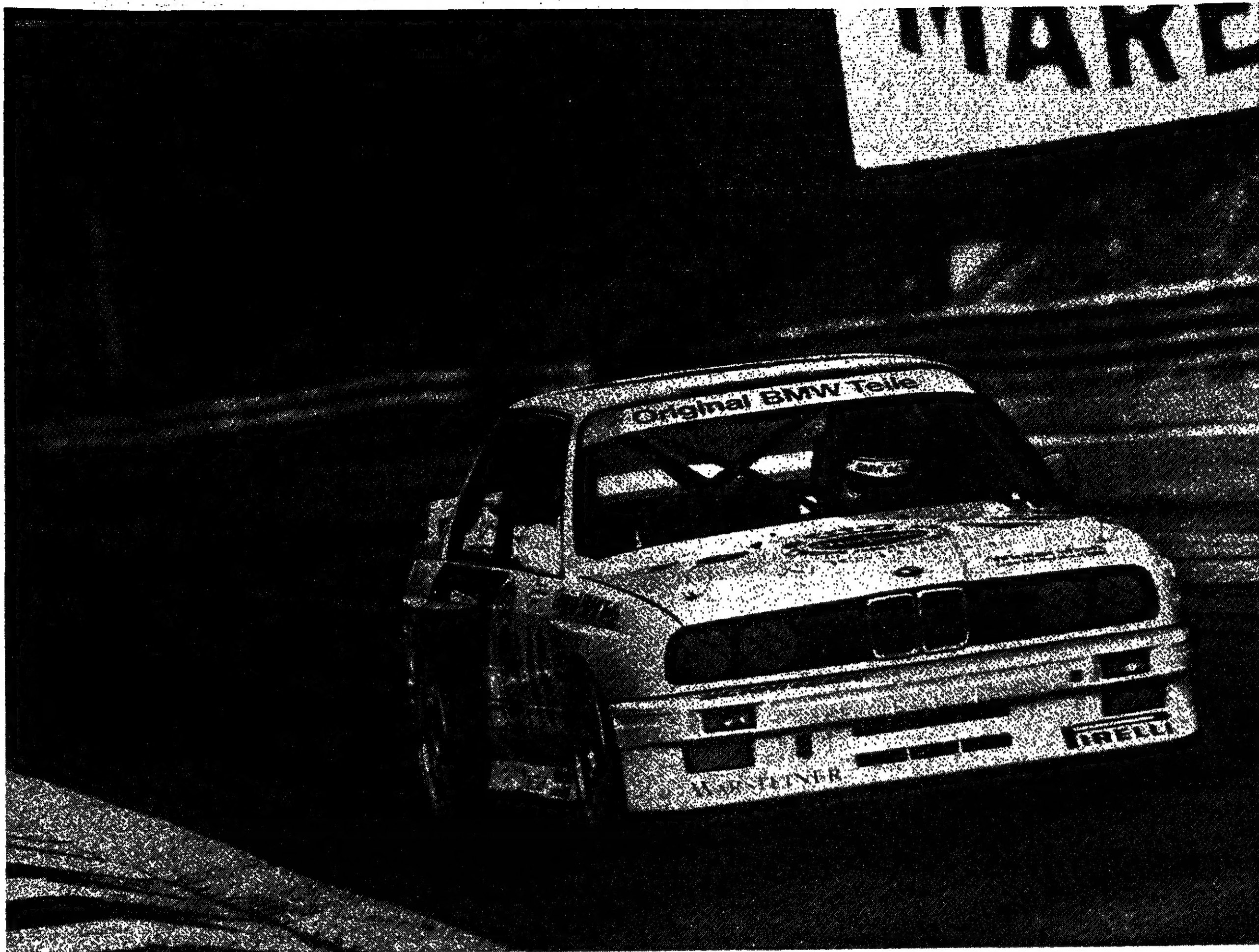
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COST OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The poll tax is a bad tax. It takes no account of people's ability to pay and it may be widely defied. If it really were a tax, its enemies would be right to try to kill it; but it is not. It is a charge. It may be a bad charge, but it is not a bad charge.

This is not playing with words. The difference between a tax and a charge is crucial, though it is too late to stop us all referring to the new local government impost as a tax. "Poll tax" fits more snappily into a headline than "community charge". Once the community charge is seen as a charge for services, rather than a tax on income, it becomes justified.

The system which it replaces — the rates — does not take account of people's ability to pay either. True, the needy receive help with the rates, but they will also receive help with the community charge. The rates incorrectly assume that, because someone lives in a house which has a high rateable value, that person also has a high income.

The battle over the broad principles involved in the community charge ended with the Bill's second reading on Thursday night. The committee stage and third reading will be the time for detail. The Bill's opponents will win concessions and will deserve to. But they never undermined the broad principles.

The most important of those is accountability. The opponents never had a better way of making local government more accountable to local voters. Local government today is the one area where 18th and 19th-century critics of the mass franchise could claim posthumous vindication.

Those critics feared that the universal franchise would lead to unscrupulous radicals winning votes and power from the masses by promising to tax the better-off and distribute the proceeds to the less well-off. At the level of national government that did not happen — or not as much as was feared. Very soon, the newly-enfranchised masses realised that their interests would not automatically be served by money being taken by radical politicians from the better-off. Eventually, they realised that there was simply not enough money to be taxed from the rich to pay for the things promised by those politicians. The voters realised that they themselves would have to pay. Today they tend to vote nationally for politicians who promise to tax them less — not tax the rich more.

But this has not yet happened at the level of local government. There, candidates can still

win power without making voters pay the cost of the grand schemes and of the pandering to minority interests. This is because so many voters never have to pay. Of Britain's 35 to 36 million voters, only 18 million pay rates. Of those 18 million, only 12 million pay rates in full. Three million receive partial help; three million have the rates paid for them entirely. The full rate is paid by only a third of those eligible to vote in local elections. In some places, such as Liverpool, the number is one in four — an oddity not much dwelt upon by those who are constantly discovering vagaries in the community charge.

If one were looking for anomalies, one could ponder the anomaly of taxing houses rather than people. Rates are a tax on houses; yet houses do not use parks, or public libraries, or vote, or send their children to school, or have their minority tastes subsidised by various politicised advice centres. The people who do should have to decide how badly they want these services or how much should be spent on them. If a link can be established between voting and paying for what is voted for, there is a chance of local elections becoming about local issues — rather than being apathetic, low-turnout opinion polls on the national Government's performance.

The Government says the community charge should be £178 per annum, per head — the average cost of local government services at present. It will tend to be much more than that at first, since even councils which want to curb spending will be coping with the legacy of the previous system. In parts of London, especially, it will be hundreds of pounds more. That £178 is the Government's highly idealised calculation of the cost of a basic service. Too basic, opponents will say. But voters will have been given the chance to decide that.

As the Bill goes through Parliament, the Government should be receptive to MPs and peers who are genuinely concerned about possible hardship among community charge payers. But anything resembling a local income tax should be avoided. Such a change would mean that in the minds of the local voters (and in their pockets) the community charge would be subsumed into their general taxation. The direct link between local services and local cost would be destroyed. Establishing that link is the reason why the community charge should be supported.

PERESTROIKA IN THE PACT

The group photographs of last week's Warsaw Pact meeting in East Berlin said it all. Alongside Mr Gorbachev, who looked confident, authoritative and energetically middle-aged, were ranged weary and sombre figures from another time. On Thursday, one of them — the Czechoslovak leader, Gustav Husak — resigned. Eastern Europe's political glacier had begun to move.

Whether its movement was started by a signal from Moscow may never be known. The speed of the Kremlin's response suggested, at the very least, a willing endorsement. Mr Husak, though visibly ageing and ill, was a survivor. Slow to absorb the change of vocabulary in Moscow, he had none the less started to pay lip service to the *perestroika* and *glasnost* of his Kremlin masters. Others were better qualified than he to lead Eastern Europe's old communists into retirement.

Janos Kadar in Hungary was older and to all appearances more fragile. Todor Zhivkov in Bulgaria, while a willing exponent of the new terminology, had found his country's economic performance rated lower by Moscow than he might have hoped, given his ideological conformity. Erich Honecker could have been expected to bow out gracefully, having achieved long delayed visit to the Federal Republic.

Even Nicolae Ceausescu, at 69 the youngest of the old East European leaders, looked less secure in office than Mr Husak. Romania's failed economy, its strange Stalinist nationalism, and the renewed threat of civil unrest all made Mr Ceausescu a prime candidate for replacement. Now that Mr Husak has gone, the chances that any of the others will remain in power for long look distinctly slimmer.

But Czechoslovakia was, and still is, a special case. Mr Husak was the chief beneficiary of the Brezhnev doctrine and the Soviet tanks required to enforce it. He came to office

at Moscow's behest to restore Soviet orthodoxy to people who preferred Alexander Dubcek's interpretation of socialism and he had never seemed comfortable with the post-Brezhnev order. When Mr Gorbachev projected himself as reformer-in-chief, and was received as such by crowds in Czechoslovakia last spring, his discomfort was complete. Mr Gorbachev's stated objectives seemed too close to those of Alexander Dubcek for Prague 1968 not to be resurrected.

In the past year, Czechoslovakia's pro-regime commentators have produced long and complicated arguments to explain why the new Soviet orthodoxy is different from the policies of the Dubcek months and why there can be no return to the spirit of 1968. Within hours of taking office, the new Czechoslovak leader, Mr Milos Jakes, offered variations on the same arguments, and so crushed the faint hopes that had been aroused by the demise of Mr Husak.

Whether Mr Jakes will — despite his opening statement — follow Mr Gorbachev in pursuit of *perestroika*, he will probably show himself to be a good Muscovite and toe the new line. Eastern Europe's communist leaders, old and new, now face an unaccustomed situation. The Soviet Union is, perhaps for the first time since 1917, in the advance guard of change and more attuned to the thinking of many in Eastern Europe than their Brezhnevite leaders are.

East Europeans have suppressed for years their sense of cultural and political superiority *vis a vis* Moscow. They now find themselves having to pretend that they did not foresee today's economic and political difficulties. They have to pretend too that their earlier attempts at reform were misguided and that Moscow was always right. Having complied thus far, they must now hope that the change of leaders and the change of generation presaged by the fall of Gustav Husak will improve their lot. They deserve something better.

FOURTH LEADER

Finnish drama students not long ago put on a performance which differed markedly from what is usually thought of as a theatrical experience. When the audience was seated, the players took all their clothes off, hurled fireworks and other missiles at the spectators, and ended the proceedings by climbing down off the stage and chasing the audience into the street with whips.

It is no use pointing out that neither Sir Henry Irving nor Lord Olivier ever behaved like that. Art cannot stand still. It is the artist's right — duty, even — to push out the frontiers of the possible. Only, it is perhaps legitimate to think that the spirit of artistic endeavour rather ran away with somebody.

The drama's laws the drama's patrons give. So, at any rate, it has hitherto been believed. Now a new terror has been added to a visit to the theatre, going far beyond such minor irritations as finding the car clamped at curtainfall, or finding the play unbearable. Most of us are willing to do a bit in the way of audience participation, singing along with the hero, hissing the villain, applauding to signify our belief in *Peter Pan*. But are we to our belief in *Peter Pan* from now on, not knowing whether we are going to be subjected before the evening is out to a wide variety of assaults? Perhaps the theatre could take a leaf out of

the cinema's book, and have a symbol, printed beside the play's details in the listings, which indicates whether members of the audience should arrive armed. Alternatively, an enterprising management, putting on a play like the one staged by the Finnish students, could sell insurance in the foyer along with the chocolates. The dear old *Mousetrap* still reassures nervous patrons with an announcement to the effect that there are no revolver shots in the play; one can only hope that Dame Agatha Christie's estate, licensing a Finnish translation, would write into the contract a stipulation that no extra "business" might be introduced.

Beachcomber's Dr Strabismus (Whom God Preserve) of Utrecht once held a political meeting. He spent the evening heckling the audience, and ended by throwing tomatoes at them. "I seem," he said, "to have got things rather mixed up". But he was notoriously absent-minded; the Finnish thespians could hardly plead an absence of *mens rea*. If they did, their plea got short shrift, for the local magistrates sentenced the lot to seven months apiece, mercifully suspended while they are of good behaviour. But what, one asks oneself, might such performers think of as good behaviour?

Cricket board inconsistent?

From Mr Alan Herd
Sir, I am the solicitor who has represented Mr Ian Botham in matters of a disciplinary nature with the Test and County Cricket Board for a number of years. It seems to me that the board has been inconsistent in its attitudes and decisions on the recent problems in Pakistan.

Last year, before the England tour of Australia, all prospective invitees to the tour were asked by the board to accept a clause in their touring contract effectively banning them from making statements to the media. That was a totally new provision and was included in all the tour contracts. The England players in Pakistan have recently acted in breach of that provision by issuing a public statement to the press (report, December 12).

The board representatives have said, however, that they will be taking no action. Yet, four years ago, when there was no such clause, Ian Botham was fined £250, on the spot, by the tour manager for a short-written article which contained comments about an Australian umpire.

In March, 1984, Mr Botham made his well-known remark about sending his mother-in-law to Pakistan "at his own expense". He was fined £2,000 by the board for bringing the game into disrepute. Now the England captain has said he never wants to go to Pakistan again and the England tour manager has said that the quality of umpiring was likely to deter players from going to Pakistan in the future. No action by the board.

In 1985, Mr Botham was fined £1,000 for showing dissent from an English umpire's decision in a Test match here. Those who remember that incident will know it was as nothing compared with the dissent shown by English batsmen in Pakistan. No action by the board.

The saga of Michael Gatting, an England captain, remonstrating with the umpire in the Faisalabad Test match will no doubt be the subject of discussion for a long time. Sufficient to say that the board has now given its full backing to the England captain — first having forced him to apologise to the umpire for his actions!

I wonder what standards of consistency of behaviour the employer, the board, can expect when that body itself is so inconsistent. As Mr Botham himself said last week (report, December 9), he would probably have to "do 30 years' hard labour" for committing any of the acts or voicing any of the opinions that have recently received so much publicity. Yours faithfully, ALAN HERD, 17 John Street, WCL, December 16.

Westminster scanner

From Dr P. K. Barnes and Mr R. P. V. Battle
Sir, The fact (computerised tomography) scanner at this hospital has not "broken down" as stated in your report (December 17) on Lord Whitelaw's being admitted here, but is being replaced by a more modern model which will be in service at the beginning of January.

Because the new machine is being installed in place of the old one there is a period of time when neither is available for use. During this period we have access to similar facilities at the Charing Cross Hospital, an arrangement which works well.

Both our scanners have been provided largely through private donations and we greatly appreciate this generous support to the hospital.

Yours sincerely, P.K. BARNES (Chairman, Medical Executive Committee), T.P.V. BATTLE (General Manager), Westminster Hospital, Dean Ryle Street, Horseferry Road, SW1, December 18.

Burdens of age

From Miss C. Duxbury
Sir, So Mr Crawford (December 16) refers to an elderly woman as an "aged crone". What is his term for an elderly man?

Yours faithfully, COLLEEN DUXBURY, 98c Harfield Road, Wimbledon, SW19.

Children in hospital

From Miss C. A. MacDonald
Sir, I would like to challenge some of the remarks on paediatric nurse training made by Mr Babul Sethi, quoted by Brian James in his Spectrum article of November 25. Mr Sethi is reported as saying that the training programme for Registered Sick Children's Nurses (RSCNs) does not include a component of intensive care nursing and that this certificate is irrelevant for paediatric intensive care nurses.

I would like to remind Mr Sethi, and others who may think likewise, that children's hospitals exist because the needs of sick children are often entirely distinct from those of adults, both in relation to their clinical management and treatment and in their need to be nursed in a child-oriented environment where the staff are sympathetic to the needs of parents and involve them as much as possible as partners in care.

Denial of a 'Spycatcher' allegation

From Mr Malcolm Turnbull

Sir, I have recently been supplied with copies of the transcript of the *Spycatcher* proceedings in London before Mr Justice Scott. In the course of his submissions Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for the Attorney-General stated that the leak of information from *Spycatcher* to *The Observer* and the *Guardian* in June, 1986, came from Mr Wright's lawyers. The clear suggestion was that I was responsible.

This allegation is wholly false. The first I learnt of the "leak" was in the Supreme Court of New South Wales of June 24, 1986. We were before Mr Justice Powell on some interlocutory matters and counsel for the plaintiff, Mr W. W. Caldwell, produced photocopies of the articles from *The Observer* and the *Guardian* and none too obliquely suggested that I had been responsible for them. I refused the allegation and Mr Caldwell withdrew it.

I stated then that if the plaintiff had reason to believe I had been in breach of any undertakings to the

court it should say so in plain terms and take proceedings against me for contempt. No such proceedings have been brought.

Instead of this allegation having been made in a forum where I could immediately answer it, it has been aired in the privileged surroundings of an English court. I am not unduly sensitive to criticism. In my line of business that is hardly becoming. But Mr Alexander and those instructing him should know enough about natural justice to realise that allegations of this kind should be made in circumstances where the victim has the opportunity to be heard.

At the very least the court should have been advised that I had denied the suggestion in the Supreme Court in Sydney and that the Attorney's counsel had withdrawn it. Yours faithfully, MALCOLM TURNBULL, Malcolm Turnbull & Co (Solicitors and attorneys), 60 Park Street, Sydney 2000, New South Wales, Australia, December 18.

Unfinished business

From the co-Chairman of Scientists for the Release of Soviet Refuseniks

Sir, In his recent interview with NBC Television, Mr Gorbachev said that the only reason why would-be emigrants are detained in the Soviet Union is that they have knowledge of state secrets.

An international symposium 12 days ago in Brussels, attended by scientists from a dozen countries, was devoted wholly to an examination of state secrecy. The scientists considered both the nature of information claimed to be secret and the practice of security in the Soviet Union and the West. They examined in detail cases in which applicants for

emigration from the Soviet Union had been denied visas because of their security classifications, and concluded unanimously that "the large majority (at least) of such classifications are spurious, being juridically unsound, arbitrary in practice and scientifically implausible".

In these days of greater realism and openness in the conduct of its affairs, may we hope that the Soviet Union will abandon this false pretext for preventing its citizens from joining their own families abroad. Yours faithfully, M. D. YUDKIN, co-Chairman, Scientists for the Release of Soviet Refuseniks, 4A New College Parade, NW3, December 3.

'Crockford's' preface

From Mr Maurice Lacey
Sir, The Archbishop of York's association of Dr Gareth Bennett's tragic death with media pressure is surely an example of whipping the messenger on account of the message.

The message was both the *Crockford's* preface itself and the fact that so much of the establishment of the Church of England (with the honourable exception of Dr Runcie) combined to crush it under the load of such epithets as "scurrilous", "scurrilous" and "vicious", thereby partially confirming the anonymous author's criticism of the "liberal" ascendancy.

The tragedy of the suicide of a priest would be compounded if his words were to be buried with his bones. Since Dr Bennett's preface is a scholarly and well-informed articulation of a very widespread uneasiness, it is to be hoped that you, Sir, will continue to keep the case on, rather than under, the sacrificial carpet by your admirably full reporting. Yours faithfully, M. B. LACEY, 102A Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, SW5.

A bad blow

From Sir Rollo Hoare
Sir, Further to the letter from the President and the Vice President of the Timber Trade Federation (November 30), this letter published in your issue of March 1, 1929, may be of interest to your readers:

Beechwood fires are bright and clear, If the logs are kept a year; Chestnut only good, they say, If for long it's laid away; Make a fire of Elder tree, Death within your house shall be; But Ash new or Ash old is fit for Queen with crown of gold.

Birch and Fir logs burn too fast, Blaze up bright and do not last; It is by the Irish said Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread; Elmwood burns like churchyard mould. Even the very fumes are cold; But Ash green or Ash brown is fit for Queen with golden crown.

Poplar gives a bitter smoke, Fills your eyes and makes you choke; Apple wood will scent your room With an incense-like perfume. Oaken logs, if dry and old, Keep away the winter's cold; But Ash wet or Ash dry A King shall warm his slippers by.

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH HOARE, Brent House, North Warrborough, December 18.

I have spoken to several senior nurses working in children's intensive care units and without exception they would prefer a trained children's nurse without previous ICU (intensive care unit) experience to a trained "general" nurse with ICU experience. One can teach staff relatively quickly how to use some of the complex machinery in the unit but one cannot so quickly teach all the aspects of caring for a sick child that are taught during RSCN training.

The English National Board have now published an outline curriculum for a course in intensive care nursing of children of RSCNs, and approval is being sought for this course in several leading centres. Yours sincerely, C. A. MACDONALD, (Director of Nursing Services), Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Nr Manchester, December 18.

Museum plans for Alamein

From the Deputy Director of the National Army Museum

Sir, I read Dr Iain Brown's letter (December 1) on the shortcomings of the Alamein Military Museum with interest. I can assure him that the Egyptian Government share his misgivings to the extent that, two years ago, they invited to Egypt representatives of the army museums of the main protagonists involved in the battle to advise on the modernisation of the museum.

The assessment of the museum which I made agrees with that of Dr Brown and the contrast with the "quiet dignity" of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery on the edge of the battlefield is most striking.

Following the visit, Colonel Dr E. Schmidt, then Director of the Wehrgeschichtliches Museum, Rastatt, and I submitted a detailed report on ways of modernising the museum. The Egyptian Government hoped that the participating nations would be prepared to provide the necessary funding, but neither the British nor the German governments felt able to support such a project.

There are, I believe, plans to develop the coastline between Alexandria and El Alamein as a tourist resort. If this happens the battlefield and its museum would presumably become a much greater tourist attraction than it is now and the necessary funding may then be forthcoming. Yours faithfully, BORIS MOLLO (Deputy Director and Keeper of Records), National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, SW3, December 10.



ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 19 1873

Joseph Arch (1826-1919), a Warwickshire farm worker and a notable hedge-cutter, was one of the great champions of those who worked on the land. He was in Parliament for North West Norfolk for some years.

[FARM WORKER'S APPEAL TO MEN OF DORSET]

MR. ARCH. — Mr. Joseph Arch, accompanied by Colonel Denison, from the Canadian Government, attended on Wednesday evening a very successful meeting which was held at the Town-hall, Dorchester. The proceedings were enthusiastic; a large number intended to honour Mr. Arch with a demonstration of welcome on his return from the colony. Mr. Emmanuel Snook was voted to the chair. Mr. Cox, a magistrate of Belper, in Derbyshire, ... contended that the Union had been a distinct blessing to the country and ... had been the means of advancing wages fully 2s. per week. The speaker referred to the assertions made by Lord Shaftesbury (the Lord-Lieutenant of the county) at Weymouth, as reported in *The Times*, concerning the extravagant habits of the colliers of Scotland, and Mr. Cox said that if these statements were proved, he would present 1000 to the Dorset County Hospital. Mr. Mayor, of Blandford then proposed a resolution congratulating Mr. Arch upon the success of his tour through Canada, and welcoming him to Dorset. This was seconded and carried with acclamation. In acknowledging the compliment, Mr. Arch expressed his determination to go on in the prosecution of his "good and noble cause". He asked how the British farm labourer stood at the present day, submitting that New Zealand, Australia, Queensland, Canada and America were bidding double the wages offered him in his own country and that this fact in itself, was simply shameful and disgraceful to England, where half the soil was not tilled. The agricultural population in this country had been gradually decreasing during the last ten years, and if this went on he apprehended grave results. But he recommended emigration as the best means of improving the position of the labourers, whom he warmly defended against the charge of extravagance, stating that what they wanted was not champagne, but good, substantial roast beef. ... The country at the present time was in a precarious condition, for the rights of labour and the people - to which the rights of property must give way - had been trampled upon. Whatever else failed, principle would prevail, and for its successful assertion he advocated Unionism. Let the men of Dorset assert their manhood and not remain mere machines; let them stick together. Colonel Denison, from the Canadian Government, said he had come over to finally conclude arrangements with the Labourers' Union. He had accompanied Mr. Arch over Ontario, and he testified that the land had been "spied" in a most business-like manner. The speaker indignantly denied that Mr. Arch, as alleged in a county newspaper, had been sent from Canada with his colours in the dust, and that it was his object to entice the labourers to their graves. ...

December 19-25, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

First there was
the consumer
society. That was
followed by style
consciousness. Now, Bryan Appleyard
reports, we have entered the age of the
connoisseur, and what counts is quality

Chunk Chic

Dualit Ltd in London's Old Kent Road had been making electric toasters for the catering trade since 1944. It was a nice little business, though none too exciting. The toasters along with other lines like professional-standard toasted sandwich makers, sold steadily through the grey years of post-war reconstruction, through the shining, affluent Sixties and on into the gloomy Seventies.

Then, in the Eighties, somebody in SE15 appeared to experience a rush of blood to the head. The Selectronic Consumer Toaster was clad in gleaming stainless steel. The object was transformed from a dull, white institutional tool into what one French publication called "la Rolls des toasters". It took on the chic appearance of a Fifties American diesel truck and Leslie Gort-Barten, the managing director of Dualit, found himself winning design awards in Japan and selling toasters to Harrods, Heals and the Conran Shop.

At £75 for the four-slice version and £95 for the six-slice, the Dualit is about four times as expensive as its competitors from Tefal, Swan or Russell Hobbs. But its makers had unwittingly stumbled upon one of the great commercial truths of the Eighties — in certain key areas of the market price is an irrelevance, what counts is aggressive, unarguable quality. Gort-Barten's family firm had run headlong into the Connoisseur Consumer. The Rise of Expertism, or, for the less demanding, Chunk Chic.

This is now seen by some as the third phase of the affluent society. In the first phase, mass production brought a whole new range of consumer goods within the reach of millions. People are grateful just to have a toaster, a washing machine or a car. In the second phase, style and aspiration take over. Smith has to have a better or smarter car than Jones and become thin, black Italian variations on the theme of the Angelpoint.

This phase filled the academic Fred Hirsch with gloom. In his 1977 book *Social Limits to Growth* he identified the Smith's eternal desire to keep up with the Joneses. His point was that everybody above a certain level of income could afford, for example, package holidays. What then mattered to the Joneses was finding a better, quieter Spanish beach than the Smiths. The Smiths would then hit back with another beach, and so the game would continue.

Affluence had created a "zero-sum game" in which eternal aspiration achieved a brief moment of triumph followed by a long nightmare of dissatisfaction. The Smiths and the Joneses were locked in an unbreakable but loveless embrace. Hell was other people's beaches.

Happily, recent thinking suggests that Hirsch was being unduly

pessimistic. His grim picture of the Smiths in perpetual pursuit of the Joneses is accepted. But one of the results of even greater affluence is that both can now find ways of winning. For everybody can now be a CC, a Connoisseur Consumer.

The phrase has been annexed by the Henley Centre for Forecasting. Bob Tyrrell, Henley's managing director, explained: "We decided that Hirsch was being too gloomy because he saw consumers competing for position only in one dimension. But we now live in a much more pluralistic, more fragmented world. People are beginning to develop particular areas of expertise which are not so amenable to attack by their rivals. It's what the middle classes might call *savoir-faire* and the working classes — the CCs — *savvy*."

This means that, instead of buying a whole range of things which are exactly comparable with your neighbours, you now focus on one

particular area — hi-fi, perhaps, or wine, cooking, sports equipment or toasters — and buy the most expensive, most professional products you can find. By doing this you are claiming kinship not with the narrow little world of your street or suburb but with a widespread community of experts. You become an initiate in whatever arcane cult you happen to choose.

The Henley Centre describes this as a "more discriminating form of materialism in which the motive has changed from seeking to keep up with the Joneses to seeking to keep away from them". And they have found that in the key areas of food, electricals and furniture, people are now going for better quality in spite of extra cost.

The Henley theory is that this arises from a breakdown of authority throughout society. Politicians are wicked, society corrupt and the professions inept. The consumer must find out things for himself, develop his own expertise.

The Henley report that defined the development concluded: "The structure of authority relations in Britain is changing. Automatic deference to certain classes of people, just because they are of that 'class', is less frequent. The classes to whom respect is accorded and status is attached are shifting from those at the top of the 'production side' of things to those who have the most 'style' on the consumption side. This change is occurring slowly and patchily. In the process self-respect is also rising as authority gets transferred from external symbols to internal 'savvy' and knowledge."

Craton, Lodge & Knight, the leading product development agency, have discovered the same phenomenon, though partner Greenagh, Lodge calls it "expertism". She has long discussions with panels of consumers and she has noticed an increasing number of questions are answered with the opening line: "Well, I'm into..." This is different from "I like" or "I want", it means "I know" and, by implication, "you don't".

Lodge avoids Henley's ambitious explanations, preferring to associate the rise of the smart shopper with home ownership. "People used to think that the boom in do-it-yourself was caused by people who

couldn't afford to pay people to do it for them," she explained, "but it's now clear that it is a middle-class movement. They want to do things in a particular way — restore a fireplace or something like that — and that leads them to get used to the idea of developing areas of expertise. I think the clearest evidence for this development is the

huge number of specialist magazines now on the market."

The effects of all this are twofold. On the one hand, mass-market products are changing their position in the market place and, on the other, a new high style of aggressively-functional chunky products are taking over from self-consciously "designer label" goods. Where once what a product said about you was all important, now the emphasis is on what it does for you — and how well it does it.

In the mass market there is Nescafe, for example. Instant coffee had become so pervasive that it was virtually a staple like sugar or flour. Meanwhile, supermarket "own brands" were generally known to be more familiar products repackaged under the retailer's name. So, to avoid losing all connoisseur status, Nescafe ran a television advertisement aimed solely at establishing that it did not make coffee to be relabelled by supermarket chains. It needed to appeal to the buyers who would otherwise have sneered at anything less than fresh ground.

Wine, of course, carries much greater status. Connoisseurs began to advertise their expertise here by buying from any merchant so long as they were a good deal more obscure than the local off-licence. Sainsbury's, however, cottoned on to this development and massively expanded the range of wines in their shops. The real connoisseur now knows that a Sainsbury label has, in fact, higher credibility than any other. It is a development that could signal the beginnings of Post-Chunk.

Sainsbury now sells a million bottles a week, 15 per cent of the national total. In all areas the need is to avoid the dreaded downmarket with its connotations of uniformity and cheapness. One big French perfume manufacturer, for example, is said to have discovered to its horror that it made the one brand that the working classes first thought of when asked about expensive scent. Market research was conducted to discover what working class women liked least. It turned out to be jazz. TV advertisements were duly produced with adamantly discouraging jazz scores.

Perhaps the most graphic entry of expertism as an ideology in advertising is the Midland Bank's promotion of its Vector account.

These ads show a prime CC laying down the law to bank executives about what precisely he wants from his account. The wimps behind the counter agree to every condition; they are living evidence of the Henley authority theory — the professionals are inept, you can only rely on yourself.

But, overall, it is clear that the phenomenon is still in its infancy. Its impact on the wider market has yet to be fully felt. Clothes retailers like Next have clearly begun to cash in on the fringes with the marketing device of making everything match, from suits to ties, to dresses to wallpaper, and all suggest an ideal of urban savvy. For the moment, however, the most vivid impact is in the expensive design-conscious emporia.

Here the switch is most obviously visible in the move from the slender, delicate ideals of Italian design to the harder, homely values of American manufacturing. Levi 501 jeans are the obvious — and now internationally successful — example. They suggest innocent, unself-

SAVOIR FAIRE

These are some of the high-price, high-credibility products the high-savvy consumer will be wanting this Christmas:

SHOES
Nike running shoes started this connoisseur obsession by charging £35 and upwards per pair. But the market has moved on and CCs will be looking at New Balance 1300s at £100 a pair. They look as though you are wearing a battleship on each foot. Elsewhere, Bass Weejuns have long symbolized the great American aspiration of the well-clad foot. But Timberland loafers and boots at £90 and £145 have taken the style to its extreme.

TORCHES
Hardly an essential chic accessory until the appearance of Mag-Lites. These are heavy black aluminium tubes made in California for police use. Over here, they sell to clued-up urban cruisers at up to £50. As torches, they are the best, and are equally handy for re-arranging the features of any intruder.

ELECTRICALS
The Dualit toaster, of course, though CCs could develop an interest in a rival catering product — the Rowlett Regent — an equally expensive squared-off monster. Meanwhile, huge American fridges with drink chillers, ice crushers, double doors, and enough interior space to hold a cocktail party are now more or less *de rigueur*. The Amana Free-O-Frost SD15-25 comes in at £2,185.

PENS
Ball points are for the Formica crowd. Fountain pens are the implement of the Nineties, the stubbier the better. At the affordable end, Mont Blanc are the market leaders, along with Parker, but the German Pelikan Toledo, covered in beaten gold, at £385 should convince even the least aware that some kind of gesture is being made here.

PEPPER GRINDERS
It is a well-known fact that mills for grinding black pepper corns do not work. CCs know better. The steel mill from Farrah out makes Peugeot costs between £12 and £25 and will go on grinding until white pepper comes back into style.

conscious American quality. They are by implication anti-design and anti-style.

They are now being followed by American police torches, fridges and soda fountain catering equipment, all of which advertise an imperviousness to mere fashion. And, above all, there are shoes. Experts and CCs are great foot fetishists, and from running shoes to winter boots that will see your grandchildren out, there is a whole distinct ideology of lower-limb defensive systems.

None of this is cheap, of course, but then who counts the pennies when there's a chance of doing really serious damage to the Joneses?

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CUNARD CRUISES IN THE BALMY CARIBBEAN FROM A VERY SENSIBLE £895.



This year why not indulge yourself a little in the beautiful Caribbean? A 16 day holiday, visiting Martinique, St. Thomas, St. Maarten and 8 other delightful islands aboard the luxurious Cunard Countess, costs from just £1,295.

This includes a British Airways flight to Barbados or San Juan. Prices for a 10 day, 8 island holiday (including Guadeloupe, Tortola and Martinique) start at only £895, which also includes flights. Contact Cunard at 30A Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LS, call 01-491 3930 or see your travel agent.

To Cunard Cruise Services, Park Farm Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5DZ. Please send me a free Cunard Caribbean Brochure. **NAME** _____ **ADDRESS** _____ **POSTCODE** _____

Cunard is a member of the Trafalgar House Group

Boxing Day with The Times

The Times will be publishing on Boxing Day this year. As well as a full Saturday section with all the regular contributors, there will be a Jumbo Crossword, a Christmas Quiz, complete weekend TV and entertainment listings, plus a preview of Boxing Day sport — including full race cards.

To ensure you receive your copy, complete this coupon and give it to your newsagent today

I would like to receive a copy of The Times on Boxing Day

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

"Everyone's eyes stood out as if they'd never seen a temple."

We had seen Dravidian temples in the south, the Buddhist stupas at Sanchi, and Lingaraj temples at Bhubaneswar, but never any such as these. In the late afternoon sun of a glorious day in March they rose majestically like mountain peaks from close-cropped lawns. Yet, as we approached, we found them alive with detail, the most exquisite sculpture.

Such sculpture, considered India's highest art-form, was known as "Chitra". It is also the word for wonder, and wonder we did. At the glorious era of the tenth and eleventh century rulers of Khajuraho.

The hunting, feasting, music and dancing. And the loving for all life is celebrated here and the most famous sculptures illustrate passages from the great Indian classic, the Kama Sutra. At the time, woman was regarded as the dominant force of creation and the senses were as revered as equal to the spirit.

Such views are hardly fashionable today. But their expression at Khajuraho, gentle, spirited, tolerant and calm, would stay with me for many years.



To The Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1X 2AR, Tel 01-437 3677 & Prestel 3442500. Please send me more details of holidaying in India.

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india
ONLY 9 HOURS AWAY.

TRAVEL 2

Video tapes can help to iron out the skiing kinks, as Helen Copeland discovered

How to make a mogul movie

Like most intermediate skiers, I have been to ski school, and I have read the Harry Evans book. I believed I was mildly accomplished, facing fearlessly down the mountain and carving every turn. Well, I'm not and I don't.

There is a video camera which allows us to see ourselves through others' eyes and, in my case, reveals arms and shoulders thrashing round and a defensive, slope-hugging stance that positively shrieks fear of the fall line.

On the other side of the viewfinder was Sarah Ferguson, the former British freestyle champion and coach, who now teaches skiing. Her method is designed to remove the mental obstacles to progress, forcing you to tackle the physical ones on the piste.

This "mind over matter" approach to skiing has been derided by sceptics who regard it as the equivalent of skiing downhill on a psychiatrist's couch; they probably believe that skiing is all about muscle-power, aggression, speed and stamina.

My performance curve had become a straight line, so I

'The rest of us were prepared to try anything once if it would help us to improve'

joined Ferguson's Complete Course in Balance in Champery, this small Swiss resort, part of the huge Portes du Soleil area, holds few terrors. It consists mainly of large, motorway-style pistes and, as such, is a reassuring place in which to learn.

I had 11 companions on the course. We differed in age, sex, background and what we wanted from the week: some were determined to conquer a fear of anything steeper than a gentle slope, others had problems with arms outstretched like great multi-coloured birds, played at being motorcars, at skiing over egg shells.

As Ferguson introduced a series of games for us to play, there were times when a sense of the ridiculous was all we had in common: pretending to be a waitress sliding with a



Snow style: Sarah Ferguson (above) makes use of the camera to film her pupils

TRAVEL NOTES

There will be five courses in 1988: two chalet parties in Verbier on January 30 and February 6, and three in Champery, based on half-board hotel accommodation, on March 6, 12 and 19. The course tuition fee is £155. Details from 4 Combe Court, Langton Matravers, Swanage, Dorset BH18 4DP; or for Champery only, from Made to Measure Travel, Cornwell House, 43 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1HX (0243 533333).

tray of martinis, for example, or sitting on one leg like Long John Silver. We good-naturedly swooped down slopes with arms outstretched like great multi-coloured birds, played at being motorcars, at skiing over egg shells.

What must have looked silly to others seemed dis-

tinctly odd to us. But such games helped us all to return to the basics of the sport, and progress was swift.

The classes are small, and there is a supportive, non-competitive atmosphere. No one was required to perform for the rest of the class, nor ski along behind the instructor

trying to turn where she did. We were encouraged to think positively about what we were doing. "I can't" means "I won't" in Ferguson's book. Anyone attending the course should keep an open mind.

My breakthrough came when Ferguson was advising on the problems of skiing

moguls. Her philosophy was not to try to ski them, but just to let the skis run. Coming down an awkward, bumpy little slope, I took a deep breath and did just that. To my amazement, my legs, loose and relaxed, performed eight swift and accurate changes of direction.

It is not all mental games, however. Stretching and strengthening exercises and a daily warm-up session ensured we were physically at our best. Our equipment was assessed and the video was used to bring us face to face with reality. But the psychological aspect is by far the most important.

Ferguson taught herself to ski powder one summer by watching someone do it on film. After repeatedly watching a video of her skiing to Vivaldi, we were given personal stereo tapes playing the same music. By concentrating on visualizing her skiing, all of us felt we could match her graceful and elegant style, even if only for a few turns.

The learning did not stop when the lifts closed. Back at the hotel our kinks were eased out by Annie Sarson, a yoga

'Ferguson taught herself to ski powder by watching someone do it on film'

teacher. Then it was time for a discussion session, where the highs and lows of the day were analysed, and where the theories could be explored at greater length.

There is a lot packed into a week and, to be honest, there are times when you could feel for just five minutes on your own. But the hectic schedule can be enormous fun. Terrific team spirit develops, friendships are forged and, best of all, everyone skied far better at the end of the week. For some the transformation was startling, others merely improved in a specific aspect. But everyone came away with a more balanced approach, convinced that skiing is just as much about sensitivity as brute strength, more to do with suppleness than stamina.



Cool, crisp, uneven



The pre-Christmas picture is a case of some good news and some bad news. As has been widely publicized, the good news is that the early snowfall in the Alps has been substantial. So, for the first time in a number of years, most resorts have a good base before the season starts. This means that whatever the weather the pistes can absorb a reasonable amount of wear and tear before becoming too threadbare. The bad news is that cold, crisp air over the Continent which gave such good skiing conditions at the beginning of the week has been swept aside by a moist warm air sweeping up from the Azores. As long as this persists conditions across the Alps will be mainly cloudy and thawing at most levels. The outlook is little better with south-westerly or westerly winds persisting well into next week. If this forecast proves to be correct then at best the weather will be changeable, and at worst, warm, wet, and slushy.

Bill Burroughs



Waiting for the snow to fall: skiers in Kitzbühel

FRANCE

LES ARCS: For music lovers, there will be a musical Christmas with guest soloists, from today until Boxing Day. Also "Wine Days", Tuesday-Christmas Day.

AVORIAZ: Walt Disney Days - daily films-shows for children, and on Christmas Day, Father Christmas and down in a street parade. Monday-Christmas Day.

COURCHEVEL: Bell-ringers, Father Christmas, down and a classical music concert. Christmas Day.

FLAINE: Ladies' FIS slalom on Monday. On Christmas Eve, a torchlight descent.

AUSTRIA

AYRHOFFEN: Ski jumping. Boxing Day.

SÖLL: Santa visits the old kindergarten; traditional Christmas horn playing. Christmas Eve.

SWITZERLAND

ST MORITZ: International ski jumping competition (Europa Cup). Boxing Day.

Peter Hankey

Perfectly packed flights

TRAVEL NEWS

Please don't wrap up for Christmas flights: the appeal from Heathrow, backed by HM Customs and Excise, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of Transport. The appeal applies to our presents, not our persons. Gift parcels may have to be torn open for security searches on departure and by customs on arrival. "Flights could be delayed by queues at search points if passengers ignore our appeal," says Heathrow's chairman, Mike King.

Basket in the sun

Lanzarote tops a new chart of self-catering costs, compiled by the Lunn Poly travel agency chain. A £20 basket of groceries from Tesco in this country would cost much the same if bought in Majorca, Spain's Costa del Sol and Algarve. Go to Malta and the basket is a bargain at £15.48. But in Lanzarote in the Canary Islands, the equivalent purchases added up to £29.38.

Never mind. Lanzarote has less rain in winter than Malta - one day a week at the most, to Malta's two. Both see the sun for an average of seven hours a day.

America is the flavour of the moment in the travel industry,

thanks to the strength of the pound against the dollar. ● Cosmos has reduced the cost of all its holidays North America by an average of £77. Prices start at £553 for a 10-day tour taking in New York, Washington and Niagara Falls (01-464 3400). ● Home exchanges are an increasingly popular way of cutting the cost of visiting America, and Home Base Holidays gives its members an early start by publishing its first exchange listings booklet in November - announcing new exchange offers in January, April and June (01-886 8752).

● From January 1, Host Homes North America will have a British reservations office for bed-and-breakfast bookings in 44 American states, including Alaska and Hawaii. The average room rate is US\$60 a night for a double in accommodation which ranges from ski chalets, through ranches and horseboats to city flats (0202-520105).

Driven to the islands

Two days free car hire in the Channel Islands is available to Air UK passengers flying to

Jersey or Guernsey on full economy fare tickets. The offer, in conjunction with Budget Rent-a-Car, runs until March 26. Air UK flies to Guernsey from Exeter, Southampton, Humberside, Stansted and Heathrow. To Jersey there are services from Exeter, Leeds/Bradford, Stansted and Southampton (0345 666777).

Both cart and horse

Trotting across Brittany in a horse-drawn jaunt-cart is one of several off-beat choices in the Inn-Active brochure, Inn-travel's summer programme for a group of holidaymakers it describes as "lazily active". Walking, cycling or horseriding from hotel to hotel with the luggage escorted to the overnight stops are three more. Accommodation, in small, family-run hotels and in simpler Gîtes d'Étape keeps prices reasonable (065 382 741).

A comprehensive Narrow Boat Hire Directory listing more than 100 bases from which to cruise Britain's canals and rivers is published in the January issue of *Waterways World* magazine, out now at £1.20. There is advice too for those thinking of buying their own.

TRAVEL BOOKS

● Geoff Crowther, who now lives in Australia, has written or contributed to numerous guides published by Lonely Planet.

The latest, *East Africa, A Travel Survival Kit* (£6.95), is of use to all independent travellers. Specialities of the series include travellers' safety, and inexpensive accommodation and transport.

But there is much else, too, for everyone interested in local life behind the tourist facade.

● Charlie Waite's landscape photography is both poetic and literal. Looking at the pictures in his latest book *Landscape in France* (Elin Tree Books, £25) is to travel the length of the country in imagination and to be constantly surprised that opening a window will not let in the sounds and smells as well.

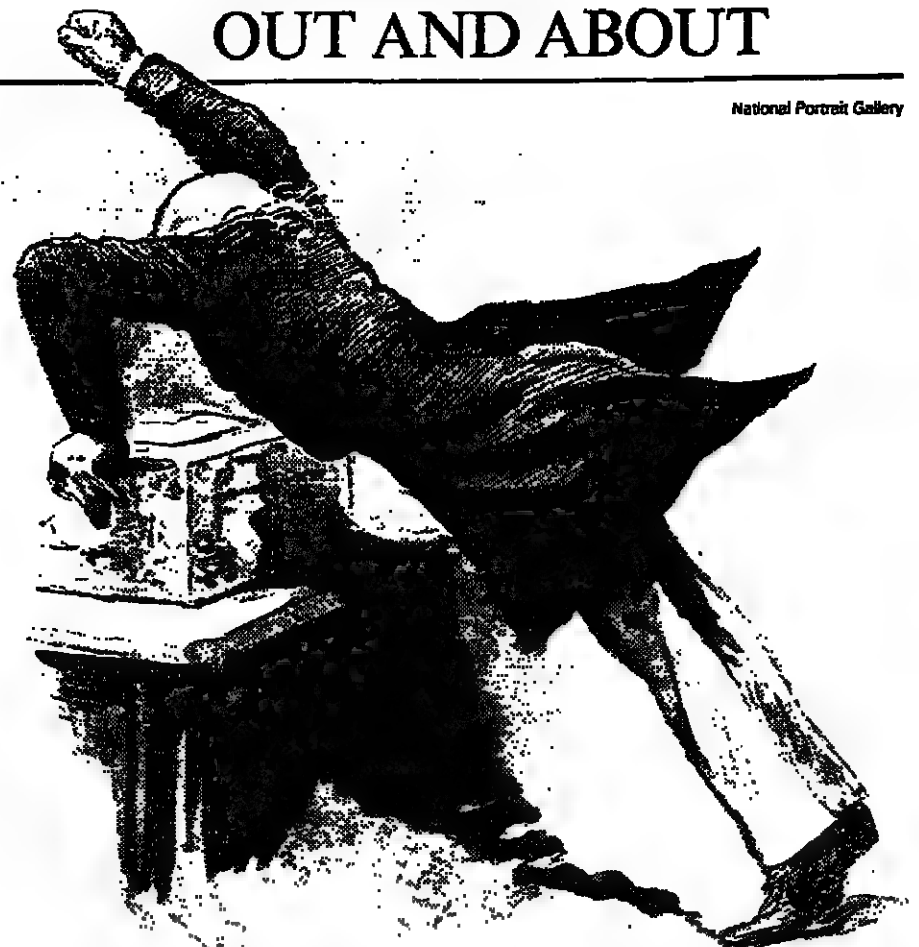
● In *East Along the Equator* (The Bodley Head, £15) Helen Wintemitz recounts her journey across Zaire by Congo riverboat from Kinshasa to Kisangani and overland to the boarder with Rwanda.

The hero of the tale is the *Major Mudimbi*, the riverboat which pushed and pulled a floating village of barges and smaller boats into the heart of Africa.

S. C. P.

OUT AND ABOUT

National Portrait Gallery



Oratory preserved: Gladstone, according to Furniss who caught him (above) at the Despatch Box, spoke so eloquently that the flower in his buttonhole would wilt

Sound of science

Noises from the past are stored for the future, reports Nigel Andrew

I have just been listening to Sir Henry Irving. Very strange he sounded too, like a prototype of one of Peter Sellers's fruitier voices. Several other eminent Victorians got themselves on to wax cylinders in the 1890s. Distorted and indistinct, they still speak to us across 100 years, and you can hear them for yourself, thanks to the National Sound Archive.

This extraordinary institution, housed in a splendid 1870s "Queen Anne" mansion on Exhibition Road, is to record sound roughly what the National Gallery is to paintings, except that it is far more comprehensive. Its collections run to some quarter of a million discs and 45,000 hours of tape, and it is growing all the time. Three thousand or so discs come in every month, there are gifts and deposits, and the archive has its own recording programme.

They say you could get through the entire collection by giving up the next half-century to continuous listening. But of course by the time you had finished, you would have to start all over again. The archive is even building up a collection of pop videos. Well, someone has to do it.

The collection covers everything from wax cylinders to compact disc, and the old, deteriorating material is continually being transcribed and restored. The improvement can be dramatic, as I heard in a "before and after" version of Florio Ford's "What the? Where the? Why the?", recorded in 1919. But the archive is at present on the brink of a technological revolution, as it begins work with the Computer Enhanced Digital Audio Restoration system. The results, I am assured, will be little short of miraculous. Even more striking than the

Golden Bough. Later recordings range from African classical music to the ululations of now-vanished Amazonian tribes.

There is recorded literature - including James Joyce reading from *Ulysses* in 1924 - actuality and documentary recordings galore, and a huge library of wildlife and other sounds. In fact anything that makes a recordable noise is virtually certain to be in the archive.

This astonishing collection is used extensively by musicians of all kinds, perhaps seeking out obscure recordings or comparing different versions of a piece, or simply looking for new sounds. Actors and actresses use it to get accents right, or to listen to classic performances.

Others might have one-off requests. However bizarre they are, the archive will nearly always be able to help. The Japanese national anthem played by a geisha brass band? No problem (I heard this one myself - very odd). The song of the Gurgling Oropendola? Right away. Beatrice Harrison playing her cello to the nightingales? But of course. You can even have a snatch of Brahms playing Brahms, recorded in 1889.

There is really no end to the sounds on offer here, and they are freely available to anyone. But if there is a particular thing you want to hear, do telephone first and make an appointment: it might take a little time. Nothing will surprise them, though - at the National Sound Archive they have heard it all before.

The National Sound Archive, 29 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AS (01-589 660-3/4), is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm (to 5pm Thursday).



Poet's voice: Robert Browning

cently as a donation. Until then no one knew such a recording had been made.

The music collections are vast, covering not just classical, popular and jazz, but traditional music from all over the world. There is a vintage recording of Aboriginal chants collected in the 1890s by Sir James Frazer, when he was writing *The*

Santa and his songs

OUTINGS

CELEBRATION FOR CHRISTMAS: Shops open, bands (from brass to folk) play throughout the day. Morris dancers, handbell ringers, children's dances, Father Christmas grotto, light refreshments. Carol concert with torchlight procession at 3.30pm. Art gallery and the two museums also open. Pleaça Hall, Halifax, West Yorkshire. Tomorrow 10.30am-4.30pm. Free.

VOLKS RAILWAY SANTA SPECIALS: Special Christmas opening of the Victorian seaside railway. The outing includes return trip from the Aquarium to Black Rock, a present from Santa Claus, admission to the Aquarium, Dolphinarium, and Dolphin Show, hot mince pies, and hot drink (mulled wine for adults). Brighton Aquarium Station, Brighton, East Sussex. Today 11.15am and 2.15pm.

KRAFT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Top gymnasts from 11 countries including the USSR and China compete today for the overall men's and women's title, tomorrow for those on individual pieces of apparatus. Alexandra Palace, London N22 (01-883 6477). Today from 1pm, tomorrow from 2pm. Tickets £5, 25, available on the door.

Who's next: Colin Baker (above) with the LSO

BARBICAN FAMILY CONCERTS: This evening, the London Symphony Orchestra play music by Anderson, Britten, and Tchaikovsky, accompanied by the Southend Boys' Choir. Tomorrow afternoon a Teddy Bears concert with the London Concert Orchestra, presented by a former Dr

Who, Colin Baker, with stories, songs, music, and special appearances of Disney characters. In the evening, the second LSO family concert with the King's Singers singing carols and Christmas music in a programme of works by Chelcicki, Prokofiev, Rutter, and Tchaikovsky. Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, London EC2. Box Office (01-638 8881, 01-628 8795). Teddy Bears concert today, 3pm. Tickets £5.80 (£4.80 for bear-holders). LSO Concerts today, tomorrow, 7.15pm. Tickets from £3.50 to £12.50.

VANITY FAIR: Last chance to see the exhibition of superb costumes from the BBC television dramatization of Thackeray's classic. Shugborough, Lifford, near Stafford (0889 681388). Tomorrow, 2-4.30pm. Adult £1, Child 50p.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: For children only, live entertainment with Capital Radio DJ, Kelly Temple, plus cartoons, games, Father Christmas. Barbican Children's Cinema Club, Barbican, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Today 11am and 2.30pm. Admission £1.50. Club membership £2 - bookable with credit card.

Judy Froshaug



Bear necessities: furry friends and their owners will be singing at the Barbican

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EATING OUT

Best restaurants of the year

Francis Mailey

The restaurants eligible for these awards are the 120 or so reviewed in this column during the past year. I doubt, however, that had the panel (of one — me) been given the length and breadth of these islands that the winner would have been different. Nico Ladenis possesses, in addition to his manifold other gifts, consistency. He is a bit like the Liverpool football team in this regard: even at his worst he often manages to be better than most of the rest.

I have eaten at Simply Nico three times since I reviewed it soon after it opened last Christmas, and the only questionable dish I have had there was one that I would probably have been grateful for in most other establishments. That dish failed because of the context of the meal in which it was served, and it is worth noting that the menu that day — this was a bash for Taittinger champagne — was devised by someone other than Ladenis.

The point is that Ladenis has a marked sense of order and propriety in the shaping of an entire meal. Everything fits. That is the case too with individual dishes. The disparate components meld well even if by themselves they have a sort of curtness; this begs the question of whether one tastes a dish as an entity or whether one approaches a plate as though it were a *menu*, dipping in here and there.

That is the only Greek reference this article will contain, for although our chef's mother was Greek his restaurant is not a taverna and his cooking owes nothing to the Aegean. What it owes everything to is his persistent and obsessive matching of his performance to his very particular ideal of what great cooking should be; like everyone of any note, Nico is a successful self-creation. There is no sloppiness in his work — if chances are taken they are not discernible.

Anyone who takes food

Jonathan Meades makes his selection

THE TIMES RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Simply Nico, 48a Rochester Row, London SW1
(01-630 8061)

ITALIAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Meridiana, 169 Fulham Road, London SW3
(01-589 8815)

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Harvey's, 2 Bellevue Road, London SW17
(01-672 0114/5)

OUT-OF-TOWN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Geddes, Town Quay, Southampton, Hampshire
(0703 221159)

ENGLISH RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Wilson's, 236 Blythe Road, London W14
(01-603 7267)

SUBURBAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
Barton's, 7A High Street, Ealing W5 (01-840 3297)

BARGAIN OF THE YEAR
Ikkyu, 67 Tottenham Court Road, London W1
(01-636 9280)

NON-EUROPEAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR
The Blue Elephant, 4-5 Fulham Broadway,
London SW6 (01-385 6595)

seriously in this country is bound to come a cropper sooner or later. And it strikes me that Ladenis's rare (though well publicized) bust-ups with his customers are skirmishes in the eternal cultural war between the Mediterranean and the Protestant north.

Beyond that I think that Ladenis's manners, his telling someone to leave and tearing up their bill, are not nearly so insolent as those of restaurateurs who, as a matter of course, cook indifferently conceived and ineptly executed food and have it served by shrugging odds and charge twice what Ladenis charges; or those starchy owner-chefs who pull in trade with their reputations and perpetually absent themselves from their businesses to service their customers in Houston or Tokyo or wherever.

When Nico is away, Simply Nico closes. Of course Simply

Nico is not simply Nico. His wife and daughter make the dining room run like clockwork and they employ a splendid sommelier. So, it would be perverse not to reward the most rewarding restaurant in London, if not in Britain.

But it is not without some close challengers. Meridiana has survived the loss of its chef, Alberico Penati. By some extraordinary chance, Penati's number two has turned out to be as good as the man I suggested might be: the first Italian to achieve the sort of reputation and fame that Kottman, Ladenis and Blanc enjoy.

John Leyton, Meridiana's owner, who imported Penati and his successor, Francesco Zani, from Milan, could make a fortune bringing them in by the container-load. Meridiana

is the only restaurant in Britain essaying fine Milanese cooking. It deals in neither the clichés of London-Italian catering nor in the noble tradition of Italian rustic cooking.

The dishes here are sophisticated developments of the Milanese bourgeois repertoire. They are endlessly subtle and inventive: bass with a sweet herb crust, lentils and mashed potato; the most ambrosial risotto imaginable, a risotto so good it should go by some other name; extraordinary ravioli stuffed with chicken and sauced with porcini or walnuts; raw beef with lettuce sauce. The cooking is unquestionably that of a great restaurant, but the wine list is that of the trattoria it once was. The place is expensive, but it also inhabits a different cosmos from the rest of this country's Italian outposts; indeed I imagine that it has few peers in Italy.

Marco Pierre White, who owns and cooks at Harvey's, has replaced Alastair Little as Britain's most photographed hunk of kitchen beefsteak. I note that Little has now grown a beard to disguise himself from the mobs of excitable teenage girls who tend to gather outside his restaurant following his weekly appearances in magazines. White, who already owns a beard, or "beard" as they're called in advanced coiffeur circles, is perhaps in danger of becoming known as a male model with an overabundance for pig trotters.

This would be a shame for he is the most gifted young chef in the country, even though his cooking is not that of a young man — by which I mean that it has none of the gimmicks that young cooks often indulge themselves in. He is a technically assured and audaciously inventive virtuoso and although he appears

to have learned his craft in the majority of England's major kitchens, he is very much his own man with a style that is bold and clean. He conjures zingingly fresh flavours, and he presents his dishes with outrageous aplomb.

M'sieur White like Ladenis, is determined that his restaurant should be turned into a ghetto for the super-rich: two can eat at Harvey's for between £55 and £65 — which is not exorbitant. Recently I had a meal there which was breathtaking: oysters with tagliatelli, caviar and shreds of cucumber; sweetbreads with scallops and an ultra-thin potato galette; lobster ravioli sauced with tomato, fine oil and a fish reduction; good cheeses (if all too similar); a slab of chocolate marquise the size of a paperback.

Geddes's progress since it opened near Southampton Docks just over a year ago is a frightening illustration of the problems that face high-class restaurants in provincial urban Britain. Despite offering very inexpensive set meals, customers were inconspicuous and the place went into receivership; it was rescued by a new owner who had the good sense to keep on the original staff, including an abundantly talented French chef, Christophe Novelli, and a notable sommelier, Giuseppe Vurchio.

Novelli's cooking is classical, restrained, and perhaps requires more sophisticated palates than those of Southampton if it is to be properly appreciated. I say this not out of metropolitan snobishness but merely as an observation that a first class restaurant (which Geddes unquestionably is) dumped down in a place where not even a second-rate restaurant

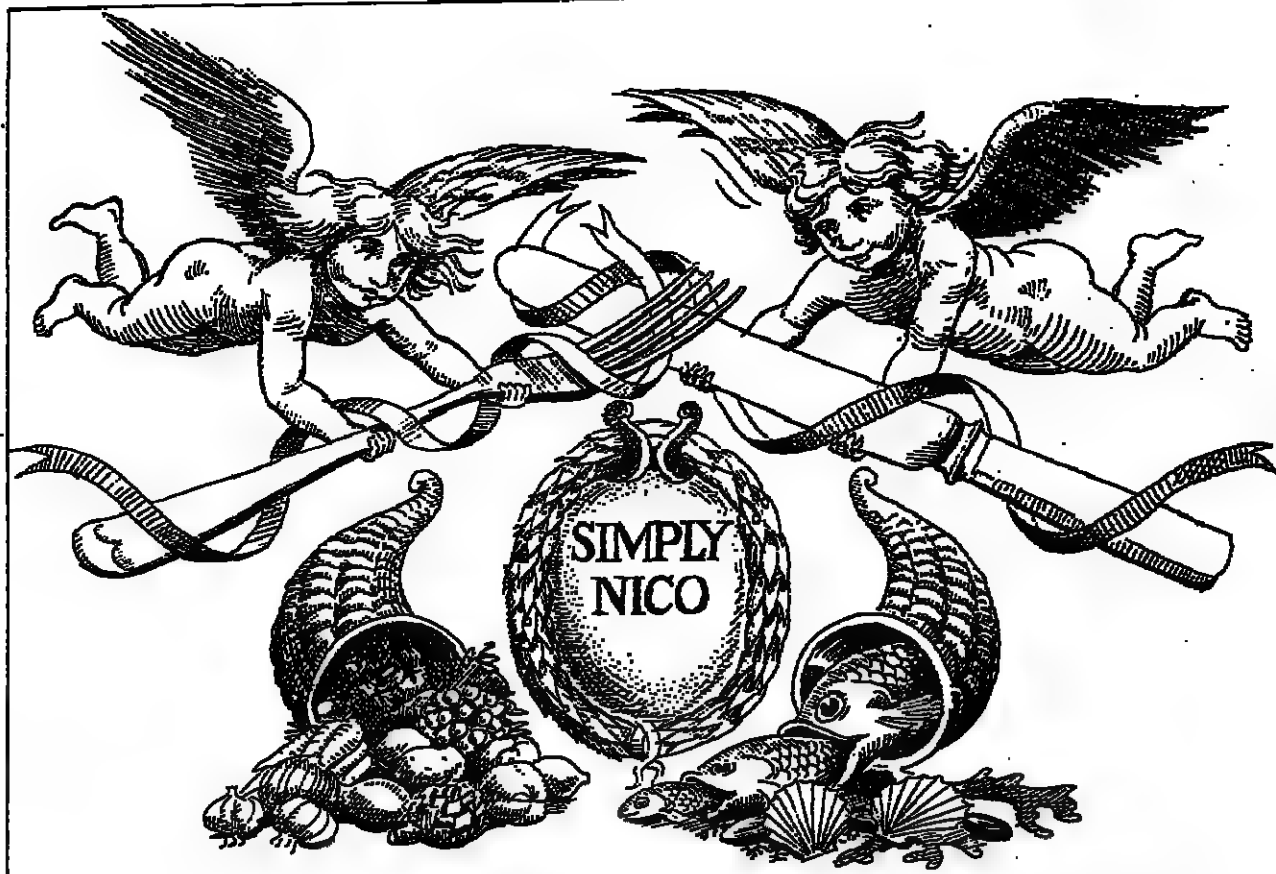
has existed before, commands no natural audience.

Barton's and Wilson's are remarkably similar establishments. Both are situated in west London suburbs, both possess chefs who work variations on English standards with French flair, both are reasonably priced, neither is remotely fashionable. London needs hundreds more of such places. In any truly civilized city, they could be taken for granted. Here, they can't.

You might be put off by the look of Barton's. You might be put off by the look of the menu at Wilson's. Barton's might be a Home Counties tea room. Wilson's goes in for some rash-looking dishes — but Robert Hilton has very good taste and is one of the rare cooks who actually comes up with combinations that are novel and good. Joe Rainart at Barton's is more conservative. Both places need to do something about their wine lists — as I seem to say most weeks, it does not make sense for modestly priced restaurants to rely on French wines. The New World beckons.

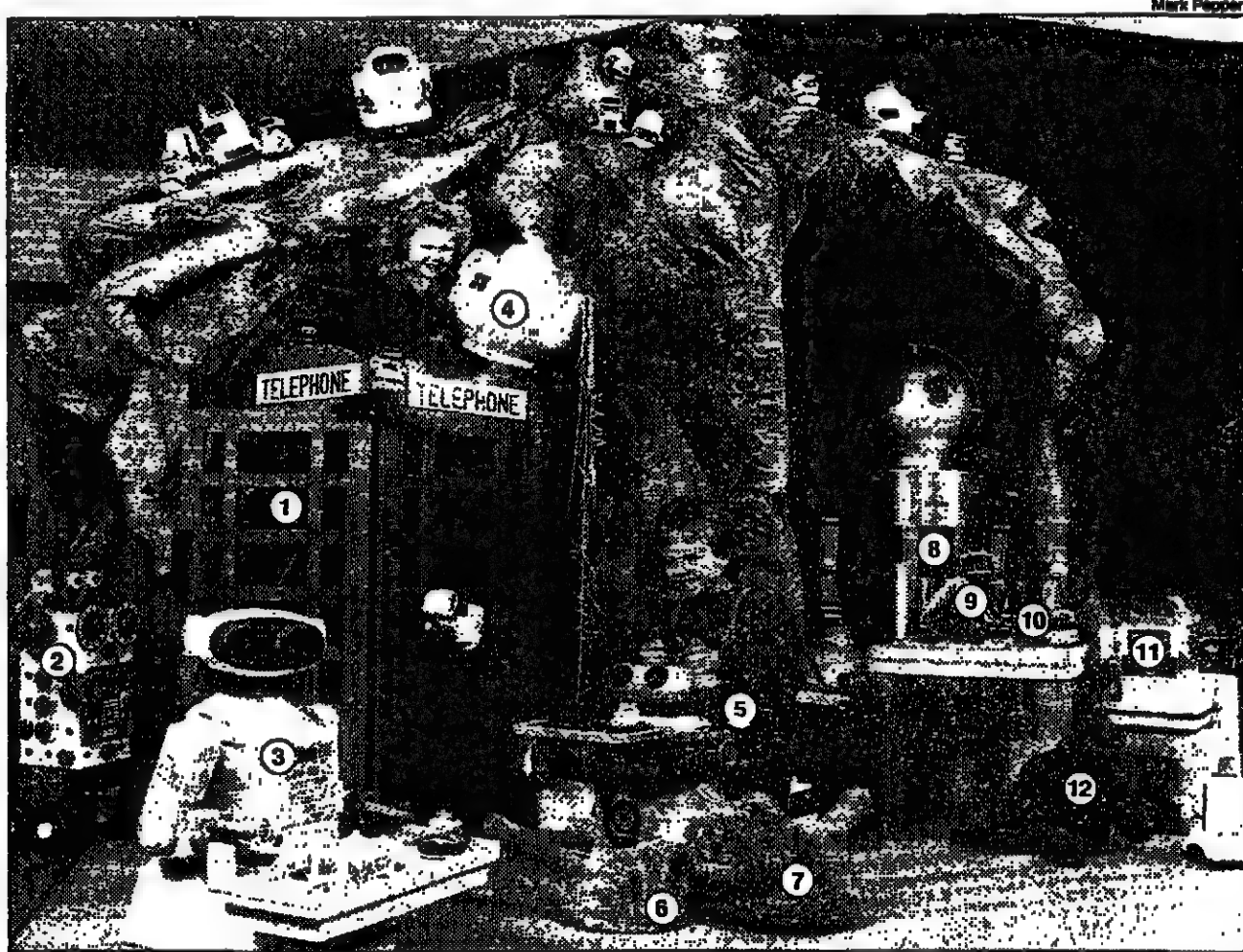
Ikkyu should not be frequented by anyone looking for a grand night out. It is probably the cheapest Japanese restaurant in London — well, Japanese café — and the only place where Japanese home cooking is available. It is scruffy, animated, enjoyable — and the food is delicious. You don't have to take off your tie to gain entry, but it probably helps.

I am not alone in preferring the Chinese cafés of Soho to the Chinese designer environments of Chelsea. Having said that, I must now admit that the greatest oriental-gastronomic revelation was provided by the very "designed" and very expensive Blue Elephant. Actually "oriental-gastronomic" may be wrong, for this is a branch of a Thai restaurant in Brussels and the cooking is pepped up by Belgian mediation. But whatever the provenance of the cooking, it is special and probably worth the prices asked for it.



SHOPPING

Robots' toyland takeover



Hi-tech teatime (above) for Ruth and Matthew, outside the Robot Cave, with 1 Tardis-style Telephone box; 2 Birobot; 3 Omni 2000; 4 Bluebird Big Yellow Teapot; 5 Armstrong; 6 and 7 Petster cats; 8 Eric the Robot (made to order in Germany); 9 Matchbox Corgi; 10 Mattel Nintendo ROB; 11 Chatbot; 12 Petster spider

Robots, in one form or another, have figured in our fantasies for centuries. From *Metropolis* and the *Wizard of Oz* to *Star Wars* and *Superman III*, they have played a leading role in the cinema, and shelves of science fiction featuring them stretch out to the Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

But while Western manufacturers' fancies have been turned to television-linked "character" merchandise, the inscrutable East — pioneers in factory robotics — continues to concentrate on pure robotics for fun and profit. (The furry "Petster" robots, sold under the Tomy label, were actually developed by Axion in California, where they like their characters to be more cosy; their robots tend to be television spin-offs and Walt Disney-style schmaltz. They also have a completely different feel about them.)

You can now enjoy a robot in the privacy of your own home for less than £12 — or more than £12,000 — but it is the mass production which has made them affordable which is most exciting.

Admittedly some of the tiny "robots" do little more than the tricks of clockwork toys, whereas the slightly more sophisticated, such as the

endearing Mr D. J., make use of sound impulses which let them seem to sing or talk. The more expensive models, such as the Omni 2000, begin to be able to fulfill the age-old pipe-dream of having an automated helper around the home — but cost nearly as much as a cleaning lady. With his plunger grip he can jerkily serve you with early morning tea and wake you up with gentle music. He will even talk intelligently — with a little help from behind the scenes.

Despite the invasion of humanoid hi-tech toys such as talking Cabbage Patch dolls and story-telling bears, heavily pushed on television, the sun-and-butter look robots are so popular that Tomy, the leading manufacturer of toy robots in the world, sells millions without ever advertising them on television according to Peter Brown, the managing director, although that may change soon. New robots are added to the range every year, with old favourites like Omibot and Armstrong still going strong.

This year Harrods has set up an entire Robot Cave which doubles as a home for its special ambassador Eric the Robot, made in Germany and to order for £12,000. And when Eric and his friends invited Ruth and Matthew to tea, it made Alice in Wonderland's Mad Tea Party look sane.

They were transported in their bright red telephone box (£199), Tardis-style, to the Robot Cave with its flashing plasma balls (£1,350) inside. The Birobot Build a Robot (£21.95) obligingly held the kiosk door. While Mr D. J. sang along with his internal radio (£18.95), Ruth poured the tea from her Bluebird Big Yellow Teapot (£25.95) and Armstrong (£29.95) and Chatbot (£45.95). Omni 2000 (£375) used his superior skills to hand round the milk and sugar, while at the table (£42) with two colourful chairs) Omni Junior (£79.95), Matchbox's Corgi (£25.99), Mattel's Nintendo R.O.B. (£29.95) with its complete

Dingbot (£7.50) and tiny Flipbot (£7.50) did their best to distract Ruth with their tricks while the playful Petsters — puppy (£45.95), cats (£99.95 and £45.95) and spider (£45.95) frolicked in and out of the cave — watched enviously by the uninvited guests on the roof. By the time they had finished, there were jammy stains all over Ruth's Demoi jester suit (£68) and Matthew's Patchagogo dangle-ears (£46) and sweatshirt (£42) — but a quick trip back to reality, in the shape of mother, took care of that.

Serious footnote: Of all the robots played with, Omni 2000 and Mr D. J. are the only two really useful ones — and everyone felt Mr D. J. was the outright winner for value, as both a radio and a conversation piece. All the robots named, unless otherwise stated, are by Tomy, and the prices are those charged by Harrods. These robots are widely available throughout the country at major stores and toyshops.

Victoria McKee

Last call for presents

If you are one of those people who leaves gift-buying until the last minute, you might need to call on the services of the following companies. Most of them take orders right up to Christmas Eve morning, for same-day deliveries.

BALLOONS

Balloons (01-274 1388) Helium balloon-a-grains boxed and delivered in London or sent nationwide. Can also supply bouquets of balloons for parties. Order by noon today for posting throughout the United Kingdom by first-class post (£8.99) or special delivery (£11.99) and by Wednesday for courier delivery in London (£13.99). Orders taken on Christmas Eve for same-day delivery by hand in London (£14.50-£20) will be met if possible.

BATHROOM TREATS

Secret Garden (01-439 3101) Soaps and fragrances for men and women in willow baskets, terracotta dishes and porcelain shells. From £3.75 to £100. Order by Monday for nationwide courier delivery (extra charge) and by Wednesday for London deliveries.

BEARS

Inter-Teddy (01-571 3077) Gift-wrapped bears from £15 hand-delivered in London up to Christmas Eve. Order by noon today for first-class post nationwide.

BREAKFAST IN BED

Carringtons (01-546 8827) Champagne deliveries, gift-wrapped with a message, or complete breakfast with smoked salmon, croissants, chocolates, Danish pastries and a copy of *The Times*. Optional Christmas pudding and mince pies. Deliveries up to and including Christmas Eve and Boxing Day (but not Christmas Day). Prices: £16 for half bottle in basket with chocolates and flowers; £23 for one breakfast; £36 for breakfast for two.

CAKES

Cake Express (01-359 1792) Orders taken up to Wednesday for delivery in London and Home Counties. Novelty cakes from £26; traditional Christmas fruit cakes with message, from £25.

CHAMPAGNE

Champagne Gift Service (0233 89202) Gift-wrapped champagne from £19.50 per bottle for non-vintage selection Brut. Message included. Order by Tuesday for delivery by courier (extra charge) in London and Home Counties.

CHOCOLATES

Cocoa (01-446 6453) Belgian chocolates in selection of packs — Wedgwood dishes, heart-shaped boxes at £7.50 per lb plus delivery. Hand-made preserves £1.30 per jar, in basket, approximately £7. Orders taken up to Wednesday for deliveries within London.

CIGARS

Unirose Gift Service (01-749 9735) One 7in Bolivar Havana Supremas Churchill cigar in slide-top wooden case, £10.95. Orders taken up to Monday for nationwide overnight courier delivery and up to Christmas Eve (morning) for same-day delivery in London (delivery charges extra).

Use the phone to rustle up some smart gift ideas, suggests Nicole Swengley



CRACKERS

Goodies (044 27 3954) Victorian-style Christmas cracker containing Liberty cosmetic bag, £13.50 plus delivery. Order by Wednesday for London deliveries only.

Unirose Gift Service (01-749 9735) Black crepe cracker containing two pairs of pure silk knickers in scarlet and black, £19.75. Order by Monday for nationwide overnight courier delivery and by Christmas Eve (morning) for same-day delivery in London (delivery charges extra).

FLOWERS

Cornish Ball Company (0326 72728) Three bunches of daffodils for £6.50 including delivery. Message included. Order by 5pm today.

FRUIT

Telefruit (01-403 0555) Exotic and seasonal fruits in a wicker basket display. Seasonal range starts from around £15 for about 22 pieces of fruit; mixture of seasonal and exotic fruit from around £20; purely exotic, £20-£75. Order by noon on Wednesday for overnight delivery service nationwide (delivery charge extra). Order by noon on Christmas Eve for London deliveries within M25 ring.

GIFT BASKETS

Basket Express (01-289 2636) Individually-designed gift baskets from £10.50 and hampers from around £25. Order by Wednesday for nationwide delivery (extra charge) and by Christmas Eve (morning) for London deliveries.

Baskets With Love (01-731 7990) Themed baskets from £30 containing, for example, heart-shaped lace cushion, cologne, soap, pot pourri, porcelain dish. Also baskets containing fruit, traditional Christmas fare, port, champagne and so on. Orders taken up to Monday for delivery nationwide by Datapost (£14 delivery charge); to Wednesday for hand-delivery in London (£3 charge).

Goodies (044 27 3954) Gift baskets from around £14 plus delivery and traditional hampers from around £18. Order up to Wednesday for London deliveries. Please check with Goodies for last-minute deliveries outside London.

GROCERIES

Chalk 'n' Cheese (01-587 0903) Domestic brokers who will visit any grocery shop in London, including Harrods, for central London deliveries. Hamper to Wimbledon and Isle of Dogs to Shepherd's Bush. Minimum charge: £9. Orders taken up to Christmas Eve.

Home Matters (01-359 7339) Order bulk Christmas groceries by 5pm today. Orders for last-minute gifts, flowers, champagne, mince pies and so on, taken up to Tuesday for delivery within London by Christmas Eve. Charges for specific services quoted per order.

JEWELLERY

Unirose Gift Service (01-749 9735) Small, round, cultured pearl traditional earrings with gold mountings (for pierced ears) in jewellery box, £25. Order by Monday for nationwide overnight courier delivery and by Christmas Eve (morning) for same-day delivery in London (delivery charges extra).

TOYS

Unirose Gift Service (01-749 9735) Pop-up clown in wooden box, £29.95. Order by Monday for nationwide overnight courier delivery and by Christmas Eve (morning) for same-day delivery in London (delivery charges extra).

WINE

Majestic Wine (01-223 2983) Large range of low-cost wine by the case from £1.69 per bottle. Orders taken up to Christmas Eve for same-day delivery with sales of more than five cases delivered free in central London.

Victoria Wine Shops Orders for nationwide deliveries of gift-boxed bottles with messages taken up to Tuesday at 865 branches throughout the country (contact local branch for details).

DRINK

Right wines as a matter of course

With Christmas less than a week away, it is too late to expect a wine merchant to guarantee pre-Christmas delivery. Don't despair, however, there should still be a good selection of wine on the shelves of your local supermarket, off-licence and wine warehouse. Here is my personal choice of the very best bottles, whether you are looking for a classy white wine to serve with smoked salmon, or an inexpensive, festive red.

BARGAIN BUYS

WHITE: 1986 Domaine de Pétier, Côte de Gascogne, Waitrose £2.25
This Vin de Pays from Gascogne has a pleasing green-apple bite and freshness to it, that would make it a happy partner for a mild, fishy starter.

1986 Pasquet Sève Classica Costatunga, Sainsbury's £2.55
An almond scent with a crisp, green, flowery palate makes this superior Sève a welcome new addition to Sainsbury's shelves. Best with a creamy hors d'œuvre.

RED: Arruda, Sainsbury's £1.99
Currently the best bottle priced under £2: a lovely rich, spicy, plum and cinnamon Portuguese mouthful, suitable for spicy food.

1985 Côte de Duras, Sainsbury's £2.15
An alternative to cranberry sauce, the wine to drink with cold turkey on Boxing Day. This big, bold, grassy, redcurrant wine is packed with fruit.

APERITIFS

Tio Pepe, Gonzalez Byass, Oodlins £3.99, Tesco £4.45
This light, flowery sherry should go down well with smoked salmon as well as being an all-purpose aperitif. Alfonso, Dry Old Oloroso, Gonzalez Byass, Oodlins £4.99

Game consommé or a rich liver pâté are popular appetisers that deserve a weighty wine such as sherry to accompany them. Go for a nutty, bone-dry oloroso such as this in a depth of flavour cuts through the richest pâté with ease and a splash is delicious when stirred into the soup.

1985 Sancerre, Domaine Le Grand Chénard, Davison's £3.49
The great advantage of a Sancerre is that unlike rich white Burgundies, its refreshingly high acidity and lively flowering currents style perks up jaded over-fat palates and livers. Davison's offering is my first choice and the '85 Sancerre, Domaine Les Trois Pressoirs £5.99 from Thrashers, is my second.

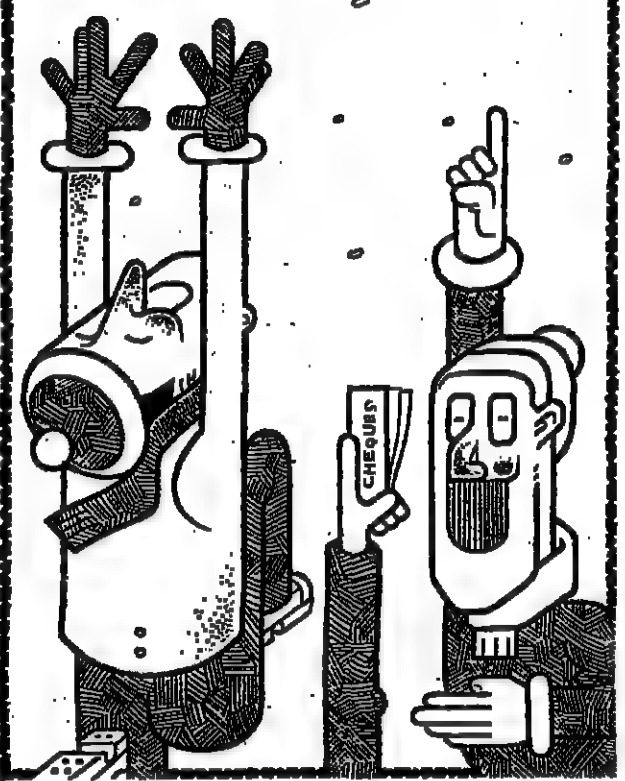
MAIN COURSE

WHITE: 1983 Chassagne-Montrachet, Les Châmaises, Davison's £14.25
Fine white Burgundy, such as this glorious, buttery premier cru, goes perfectly with a simply prepared capon or turkey.

1983 Rasthaller Rottenberg Riesling Spätlese, Tesco £5.89
The Germans like to serve rich, white, late harvest Spätlese wines with fatty birds such as goose or duck; try this well-made, rich, honeyed Riesling Spätlese.

1986 Rosemount Estate Show Reserve Chardonnay, Waitrose £5.25, Sainsbury's £5.75
Big, fat, buttery New World

Jane MacQuitty chooses her personal selection of the best buys on the shelves from supermarket bargains to those top brands for more expensive tastes



Chardonnays also go well with turkey and other white meats. This inexpensive, spicy, pineapple Australian wine is as fat and fruity as any Chardonnay-lover could wish for.

RED: 1984 Stratford Cabernet Sauvignon, Waitrose £4.99
Turkey with all the trimmings demands a fruity, highly-charged red to go with it and California Cabernets such as this one with its gorgeous, rich, ripe cassis taste is an ideal and sensibly priced choice.

1985 St Estèphe, Majestic £4.99
Claret, so purists argue, is the only wine for turkey. And this classic, deep, ripe, truffled mouthful is Bordeaux winemaking at its best, and none other than the third wine from a celebrated St Estèphe second growth.

1977 Haut Brailley, Marks & Spencer, £11
Unfashionable and undervalued, 1977 none the less produced some good

clarets of which this stylish wine, with its fine, firm, cedary fruit is undoubtedly one. A good partner, too, for beef.

1982 Rocca delle Macie, Chianti Classico Riserva, Sainsbury's £3.75
With goose or duck, this classic Italian red, with its high acidity and snap of bitterness on the finish, would be my first choice. In order to cut through the fat. This violet-nosed Riserva is both tremendous value and utterly delicious.

1979 Belva Mar Reserve, Paulo de Silva, Oodlins £3.99
Portuguese reds also have appealingly high acidity and the aromatic, voluptuous, spicy damson fruit of this wine would go especially well with goose or duck, particularly if they were prepared with a fruit stuffing.

1985 Château de Tour Peyronnet, St Emilion, Sainsbury's £5.75
Claret can, and does, go with fatty birds, but you need to choose an excellent right bank offering such as this; its

cedary, oak-influenced flavour is backed up by a fine, bitter chocolate-like finish.

1980 Chambolle Musigny, Chanson, Marks & Spencer £3.99
Game birds such as pheasant or partridge deserve rich Burgundian wines to accompany them and this Chambolle, with its fragrant cinnamon-like scent and rich savoury palate is certainly that.

1985 Wynne Shiraz, Arthur Rackham's £3.85, Thrashers £3.99
Full-flavoured, well-hung pheasant and other strong game, such as venison, call for more robust red wines - Australian Shiraz is the answer. Wynne's rich, chunky, blackberry and eucalyptus-like offering is one of the best.

PUDDING WINES

1982 Moscatel de Sétubal, JM de Fonseca, H Allen Smith, 24-25 Ede Street, London W1 £5.35
Most delectable with the pudding: sweet, strong and raisiny Portuguese wine.

Muscet Vieux Vin de Languedoc, Waitrose £2.55
Southern France also produces fortified dessert wines, made from the Muscat grape, and this pale gold, sweet, robust offering is a bargain buy.

Pedro Ximenez, Valdeapino, Oodlins £5.59
If your plum pudding is a very rich version then the oldest, heftiest and truest of dessert wines is needed. PX is the sweetening wine used by the sherry producers and Valdeapino's enormous, burnt caramel version is like a liquid plum pudding.

DESSERT WINES

1982 Baster-Lamontagne half bottles, Oodlins £3.49
Lots of people hate plum pudding and prefer to serve fresh fruit or an exotic fruit salad. This elegant, waxy Sauternes would be the best accompaniment.

1984 Moscatel d'Oro, Robert Black, Marks & Spencer £5.79
Perfect with fruit salad, or tangerines and Christmas crystallized fruit, this light, aniseedy Californian wine is delicately, rather than aggressively, sweet.

1985 Clos St Georges, Graves Supérieures, Sainsbury's £3.25
Every sweet tooth's Christmas bargain buy, this pale gold, peachy mouthful would be perfect with all manner of light, fruity puddings and is bound to be a hot favourite with elderly relatives.

PORTS

1976 Graham's Malvedos, Davison's £11.95, Oodlins £12.95
To some palates, including mine, the season demands a good glass of port to savour and enjoy with the Stilton and nuts. This is a glorious, rose-scented, fruity wine at half the price of vintage port.

1974 Wells, Late bottled 1978, Oodlins £10.95, Majestic £11.95
This true vintage character port, unlike most of the spineless so-called LBV's, provides port lovers with a rich, plummy, velvety mouthful. Taylor's 1966, Majestic £25.95

Traditionists would not dream of letting Christmas go by without a glass of the real thing: a rich, mature glass of Taylor's violet-scented vintage port. 1986 was a good year and this '86 is definitely ready for drinking now.

THE TIMES COOK

Diana Landbater



A fresher trim on the festive table

Perhaps this year turkey would be improved by some less traditional accompaniments? Frances Bissell suggests a few tasty trimmings

Planning the trimmings and accompaniments to go with the main dish on Christmas Day can be harder work than planning and preparing the main dish itself. The easiest way of dealing with it is, of course, to do what you have always done, whatever it is. Christmas dinner is no time for experimenting, I hear you say. Yes, but wouldn't it be fun to introduce just a few changes? Keep to your basic menu which obviously works very well, but perhaps serve the dishes in new ways?

Smoked salmon and shellfish both play a part in the traditional Christmas meal and very nice they are, too. I have suggested a way of preparing smoked salmon that makes it go a little further. You can serve the "cushions" as snacks to go with pre-dinner drinks or as a starter, two or three on a plate with some salad leaves, perhaps.

Smoked salmon trimmings or pieces are, incidentally, a good thing to stock up on before the holiday. Much cheaper than slices, they can be used with scrambled eggs for a leisurely breakfast, chopped up with sour cream and served inside baked potatoes for a snack, shredded and stirred into pasta with sour cream and vodka for a supper dish, chopped up with chives or spring onions in a warm potato salad as a starter, and in plenty of other ways.

Oysters served on a bed of cracked ice are, for us, the perfect starter on Christmas Day. It is a mistake, though, to consider that as an uncooked starter, they will only need a few minutes' preparation at the end. It doesn't take a mathematician to work out that a dozen oysters each for 10 guests will take some time to open. Last year's Christmas dinner was delayed considerably by failing to take this into account.

You will find no recipe here for Brussels sprouts. Nothing will persuade me to eat them, although my husband, Tom, says I'm very boring about this. But neither Anton Mosimann's recipe for shredding and stir-frying them with ginger and garlic - which I can well believe is the best recipe in the world for those sulphurous infant cabbages - nor even the baby sprouts that Marks & Spencer is selling together with a range of miniature carrots, corn and leeks can change my mind.

Now these latter three, stirred with garlic and ginger, would make a marvellous vegetable dish for Christmas. So would a bowl of new potatoes. You need to be out and about early next week to get the vegetables you want. With a rich meat course, I also like root vegetables and have included my recipe for Jerusalem artichokes. If you cannot get them, I would suggest layering thinly sliced carrots, potatoes, parsnips, turnips and celeriac and cooking them the same way.

What about Christmas dinner for one? Partridge, quail and pigeon are the perfect size for the single diner and pot roasting is the way to keep them juicy. Your pudding will, I hope, have been made already. But for those who are less than keen on the traditional Christmas pud, I have included today a recipe for something just as good and just as festive. A soufflé flavoured with mince and served with a rum or brandy sauce would be a perfect light note on which to end a Christmas Eve supper or even the main meal on Christmas Day.

Smoked salmon cushions

Makes 24
1½lb/230gm smoked salmon pieces

2oz/60gm softened butter

2oz/60gm thick plain yoghurt or sour cream

1 chopped shallot

1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1 teaspoon lemon juice

Freshly ground black pepper

Salt to taste

24 squares of diamonds cut from slices of toast or 24 small round cocktail pumpernickel slices

1½lb/110gm sliced smoked salmon

Make a spread by processing the smoked salmon pieces, butter, yoghurt, shallot, parsley, lemon juice and seasoning. Spread it on the pieces of toast quite thickly to make a cushion-shaped mound. Cut pieces of smoked salmon to fit, and lay these over the top. You can garnish with a little parsley or a tiny sliver of lemon peel.

The following recipe can be simply multiplied by the number you wish to serve. One partridge serves one person.

Pot roast partridge

Serves 1

1 partridge

1oz/30gm butter

¼ tablespoon finely chopped fresh herbs

Salt and pepper

1 tablespoon brandy

1 tablespoon port, vermouth or good red wine

1 teaspoon fruit jelly

Mix the butter, herbs and

seasoning. Smear some over the partridge breast, and put the rest inside the cavity. Heat a little more butter in an ovenproof saucepan or casserole, and fry the bird all over until nicely browned. Pour on the brandy and set alight. Add the port. Cover with a lid or foil, and cook in a pre-heated oven, gas mark 3, 150°C/375°F for 35 minutes or so.

Test for doneness. Drain off the cooking juices into a small saucepan, add the fruit jelly, cook and reduce until syrupy. Serve the partridge on a small round of toast with a spoonful or two of sauce.

Baked Jerusalem artichokes

Serves 4 to 6

2lb/0.9kg Jerusalem artichokes

½ pint/280ml thin béchamel or cream

1oz/30gm butter

Salt and pepper

This may seem a large quantity for four people, but because of all the knobby bits, there is often quite a lot of waste with Jerusalem artichokes. I find that if you scrub and wash them well, cutting off any bruised knobs, it is not necessary to peel them. Since making that discovery, I have served them quite often. Their sweet, nutty flavour, combined with their substantial but non-starchy texture, makes them a very good accompanying vegetable for those who want a change from potatoes.

Cut the vegetables into ¼ inch/1cm slices, and drop

them into a large pan of boiling water. Bring back to boiling point, and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Drain. Butter an ovenproof dish, and put in a single layer of artichoke slices. Season lightly and pour on a few tablespoons of cream or béchamel. Continue with the next layer of artichokes, and carry on until you have used them all up. Finish with more cream or sauce on top. Bake on a low shelf in the oven for 25 to 30 minutes.

Mince-meat soufflé

Serves 4 to 6

2oz/60gm unsalted butter

2oz/60gm flour

½ pint/280ml scalded milk

1oz/30gm sugar

4 tablespoons mince-meat

4 size-3 eggs

Melt the butter in a heavy-based saucepan, and stir in the flour. Cook over a low heat for two to three minutes, stirring continuously. Gradually add the hot milk to the mixture. This will thicken initially and seem lumpy, but just beat vigorously as you add more milk, and allow the mixture to boil each time you add more milk. When all the milk has been added, stir the mixture until smooth, and let it cook gently for 5 minutes. Butter a 7 inch/18cm, 2 pint/1.15 litre soufflé dish, and lightly sprinkle it with caster sugar. Stir the sugar and mince-meat into the white sauce. Separate the eggs, and beat the egg yolks into the white sauce, one at a time. Whisk the egg whites in a large bowl until stiff, and fold them carefully into the soufflé mixture, using a metal spoon or plastic spatula, not a wooden spoon. Pour the mixture into the prepared soufflé dish, and stand it in a roasting tin containing an inch or so of hot water. Bake in the top half of a pre-heated oven, gas mark 4, 180°C/350°F for about 30 to 35 minutes.

IN THE GARDEN

Long living blooms

Imagine having a Christmas plant that might live for 100 years. No, not an oak tree in a pot, but a cyclamen. I admit the oldest I am personally acquainted with is a mere 70-year-old, but it looks set to continue into a good old age. Despite remarkable records for longevity, many Christmas cyclamens are either discarded after flowering, or unwittingly consigned to short-term survival - usually because of over-heating and over-watering. However, some of the new forms of *Cyclamen persicum* available at florists and garden centres are much easier to keep and, specially bred as house plants, tolerate home conditions better than the older sorts.

The leaves, shapely and marbled silver, are an attraction even when there are no flowers.

How then do you look after a cyclamen to pass down to your heirs? When you first introduce it into your home, select a place for it in good, but not direct sun light. A cool place where air circulates is ideal: put the pot on a saucer of pebbles, kept wet.

The best way of watering is to give a good soak and leave it until the compost is just beginning to get dry. Feed healthy plants in bud and



Lifelong *Cyclamen persicum*

flower with a liquid fertilizer. The nastiest indoor pest, red spider mite, will attack cyclamen but it is no more subject to pests than any other house plant. Keep bouyids (grey-mould) at bay by watering from below in winter and picking off fading flowerstems and leaf stems, pulling them away neatly.

In the past, the standard practice was to dry tubers out during the summer, but it is easier to reduce watering to a very low level. Make sure that the exposed tuber gets sunlight for about half the day. Then in July top dress with a good compost, with a sprinkle of

bone-meal mixed in. Defer repotting until the plant really looks uncomfortable in a small container. Good drainage is the key to success: never bury the tuber or let water stand on the crown of the plant, or it will rot and die. If the compost is sticky and holds water, or a drainage hole is blocked, put it right and make checks when watering.

Good varieties of *Cyclamen persicum* which come in whites, pinks and reds, are Triumph and Lustre, and mini-varieties Symphony and Puppet which is fragrant. The Cyclamen Society, The Barn House, Standen Street, Iden Green, Benenden, Kent, TN17 4LB, should be able to advise both on cultivation and suppliers of particular varieties.

Francesca Greenoak

WEEKEND TIPS

● Sow pelargoniums (pot geraniums) in a propagator at about 60-65°F (15-20°C).

● Bring bulbous indoor plants to flower when the buds show and begin feeding with a liquid fertilizer.

● Prune apples and pears but not cherries and plums.

● Continue to plant bare-rooted trees so long as the weather is reasonably mild.

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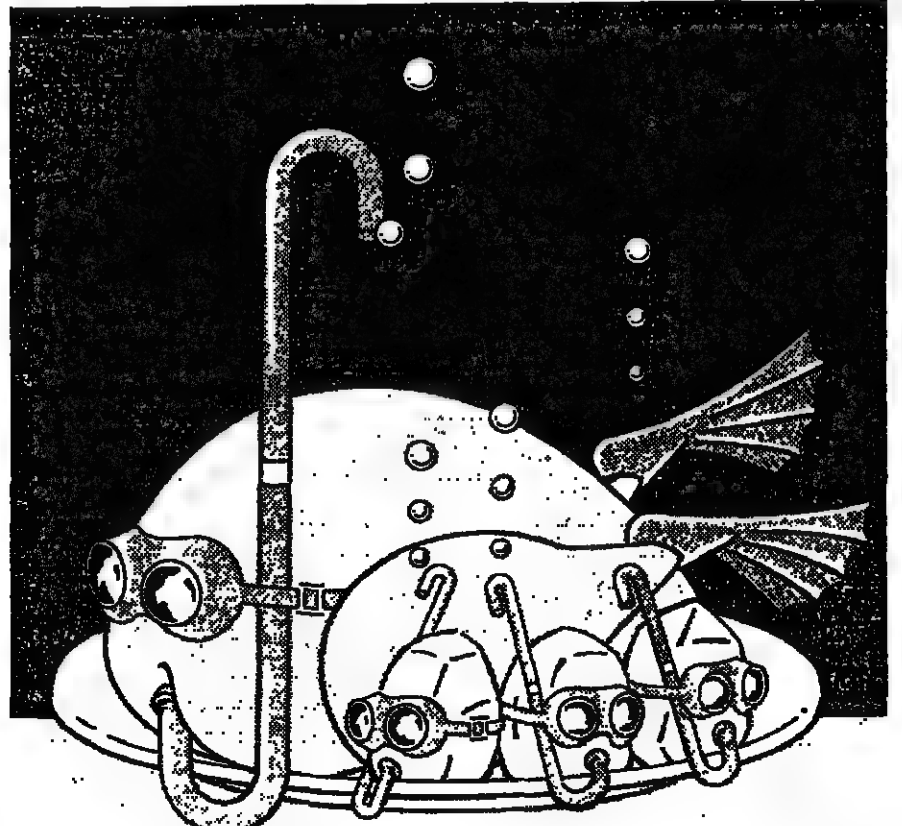
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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

A cartoon view of the holocaust

Good may be able to combat evil in all its manifestations; good taste cannot. Its very strictures prevent it from even mentioning much which it aspires to triumph over. The Holocaust was an expression of such evil as to surpass questions of mere taste, yet the inadequacy of any reaction to it makes us often fret the more over the niceties of our manner of approaching it.

The remarkable attempt by the film *Shoah* (recently shown on Channel 4) to convey the reality of the Holocaust included scenes which might have offended some tastes. In one, a barber tearfully described his experiences as a concentration camp victim, while snipping a customer's hair.

The juxtaposition of something so mundane and something so extraordinarily terrible nevertheless partly brought home the experience.

Of Cats And Mice (BBC2), Georg Troller's intriguing, moving film for *Arena* about Art Spiegelman, centred on a much more bizarre and, to some, a more offensive attempt to find a personal expression to convey the horror of the Holocaust — his comic-strip book *Maus*, based on the experiences of his parents, in which Jews wear mice masks, Nazis cat masks.

The film conveyed the emotional weight and powerful significance of the choice by this immigrant son of such a populist American medium to convey the tragedy of his European family without politically smoothing over the brazen roughness of such a gesture. Even when Spiegelman retraced his parents' steps to Auschwitz, the satirical quipping of the caricaturist was not absent — he sent Kurt Waldheim a "Wish you were here" postcard. On his return he was shown talking to his therapist about how the presence of the film crew distanced him from the experience.

It is only at the end of the film that the full horror of his parents' story was revealed, how they were reunited after the war, in which their first son died, only for the mother to end up killing herself, estranged from both her husband and her second son, Art. Sometimes human bad taste is no match for the sick jokes of the gods.

Andrew Hislop

Nor custom stale...



1985: Oscar for *Passage to India*



1932: *Cleopatra* at the Old Vic



1960: In *Taming of the Shrew*

Amid the galaxy of theatrical talent which will take the stage at the Old Vic on Sunday in the Royal Shakespeare Company's birthday tribute to Dame Peggy Ashcroft, you will find nobody who can believe that she will be 80 on Tuesday.

"Her chief difficulty is to look old enough to play anything," wrote James Agate, and throughout her 60 years on the stage people have been perpetually amazed at her youthfulness. She played Cordelia at 47, Rosalind at 50, Katharina at 52 — and still seemed younger than her Petruchio, Peter O'Toole, who was half her age. "Age is irrelevant if you can encompass a part in your imagination," she once said.

Her extreme youth made her a sensational Juliet and a powerful influence on aspiring young actresses of the time, as Rachel Kempson recalls. "She was so young and so unmanipulated. She made it seem as though the lines had just come into her mind. Whatever she plays, it seems as if she's invented the lines, not learnt them."

Dame Peggy is celebrated for truthfulness off stage as well as on. Dorothy Tutin remembers being on the wrong end of this when playing Juliet at the Old Vic. "I could see from the way she came in that she didn't like it. She told me what I was doing wrong — holding up the rhythm of the lines by thinking before and during them. Peggy always tells you straight: you can trust her and be grateful. Like John Gielgud, she speaks Shakespeare as though it is her own personal language, not sounding over poetic but without losing any of the music. Watching them both rehearse the scene where Cordelia is reunited with Lear brought me to tears. Then Peggy, who was kneeling, burst out laughing and said 'Johnny, I shall never be able to get up from here with my bloody knees'. They changed places and did it again and I realized that they could do it just as well standing on their heads."

Cleopatra, which she played at

The RSC stages a birthday tribute to Dame Peggy Ashcroft at the Old Vic tomorrow. Peter Lewis looks back at her 60 years of theatrical magic

Stratford to Michael Redgrave's Antony, was probably her favourite part. She wore a red pony-tail and surprised everyone by the intensity of her sexiness and spite. One of the people she bowed over was Judi Dench, whose own performance in the role has been bracketed with hers as the two finest Cleopatras since the war, and who recalled: "I saw her when I was 19 and she made an impression on me. I shall never forget. Until then I had never even considered being an actor — I wanted to be a designer. It was that that kindled the desire."

"I remember sitting on the bench beside the river the next day and deciding. When I was rehearsing *Cleopatra* this year, she asked me how it was going. I told her there was a line I didn't know how to say. Talking to me about it, a line of only four words, she unlocked a door that gave me an insight into the whole character and emotions of *Cleopatra*."

Peggy Ashcroft was the first artist to accept Peter Hall's invitation to form what was to become the RSC. He has often testified that he could not have done it without her. She was the company's essential backbone — never more so than in her *tour de force* as Margaret of Anjou in *The Wars of the Roses* — and not only on stage. In the run-up to this marathon production, Hall collapsed from overwork and stress.

"It was Peggy's strength and determination that pulled me through," he admits.

Janet Suzman remembers sitting in the wings at the first dress rehearsal, as a newcomer to the company, and whispering to the person next to her. "I asked who was that straight-backed young girl sitting on a packing case waiting to go on. I did not recognize her as Peggy — she had transformed herself into a 16-year-old girl." It was the first of her many transformations which ended as the savage and crazed old queen. These transformations owe very little to make-up. "I remember her sobbing when they made her up as Lady Teazle," recalled Rachel Kempson. "She couldn't bear all that stuff coming between her and the character."

Peggy Ashcroft says that what intrigued her about Queen Margaret was the challenge of coming on stage with her lover's severed head beneath her arm without getting a laugh. "She's the least sentimental of actresses. She never asks the audience to love her," said Sir Peter Hall, "the idea that 'my public wouldn't like to see me doing that' would never occur to her."

The idea of baring her private life or feelings to the public would never occur to her either. Dame Peggy is famous for her reluctance to be interviewed and for the invariability of her crepe-wrapped Georgian house in Hampstead, which, after three marriages, she now shares with the former nanny of her two children.

In the theatre, on the other hand, her approachability is a by-word. Judi Dench said: "When I joined the RSC, I was paralysed by the thought of working with her and Gielgud in *The Cherry Orchard*. I couldn't do a thing right for the director. But Peggy was a stalwart friend, telling me not to let him intimidate me."

Tim Pigott-Smith was a schoolboy at Stratford when Peggy Ashcroft judged a reading competition and gave him the prize.



1960: Peggy Ashcroft's simple beauty pictured by Angus McBean

"When I was working in the paint shop at the National Theatre, she smiled at me, which made my year. When we were introduced before *The Jewel in the Crown* she held out her hand and said, 'But I know you.' In India she asked me to hear her lines as Barbie and would ask me — me! — 'Do you think that's all right?' She is completely without egotism."

It is only in the past few years, after a career devoted single-mindedly to the classics, that she has turned to films and television and begun, ironically, to be recognized in the street. She was

ticked by the reaction of a taxi driver who radioed to his control: "It's Miss Peggy Ashcroft, the television actress." But her greatest triumphs were Shakespearean. Her Beatrice, said Sir John Gielgud, was "a cheeky character who means well but seems to drop bricks all the time — perhaps she got it from me". She owns and treasures the copy of the play annotated by Ellen Terry. Many actors believe that in her freshness and immediacy, she is the Ellen Terry of our time.

CBSO/Rattle Town Hall, Birmingham

Even his occasional unsuccessful performances add to Simon Rattle's credit, not just because they prove him to be human, but more importantly because where he fails he does so through taking risks. So it was on Thursday night, at the second of two consecutive performances of Mahler's Ninth Symphony.

Failure here is very much a relative term. The first movement was almost pure success,

CONCERT

its tortuous workings fully fleshed out and empowered by a willingness to accept contradiction and make use of it.

Where most conductors aim for some continuing line, Mr Rattle showed how it is possible sometimes to keep two or even three balls in the air at the same time, with different orchestral groupings proposing different ways forward.

Indeed, this competitiveness became a main motive force, making the develop-

ment a combat not so much of themes as of orchestral forces — a combat unfairly won by the brass with a brutally simple idea at the main climax which left the rest of the orchestra confused and embarrassed.

What was surprising in the finale, and much more defensible, was the lack of lachrymose leave-taking. Nothing was hurried: the last page was marvellously decelerated, and taken to a marvellous pianissimo, looking straight forward (or sideways) to Webern.

Paul Griffiths

Dorothy's a delight

THEATRE

The Wizard of Oz Barbican

This is, to come out with it immediately, the most marvellous show.

As the music of the prelude fades, we find ourselves looking at Dorothy's Kansas barn yard, with all its well-recalled details from the black and white opening of the MGM film. The wagon, the picket fence, the sun in its leaden sky, young Dorothy and the friendly workers on the farm, Mark Thompson's design paints them in shadows, preparing us for the colour that will explode upon our eyes once we are over the rainbow.

In adapting the film so expertly for the stage, John Kane has also gone back to L. Frank Baum's original (1900) book, either contributing witty lines of his own or gathering them from scenes cut from the film. The result is a show that is literate, logical, brimful of spirit and on several occasions brings wholesome tears to the eyes.

Imelda Staunton's voice as her dog Toto is torn from her would melt the frostiest heart. Her Dorothy is never for one moment cute; she is cheery, polite, resolved, grins gor-



Cheery: Imelda Staunton

geously, makes lovely lumpy movements when required, and gives to the last high notes of "Why, Oh Why Can't I?" a pearly clarity that is utterly captivating. The Munchkins, played by children — some very young — could have been a nauseatingly sugary interlude, but Ian Judge guides them to give little individual cameo; no more than a few seconds long, but all performed with grace. Most striking are the repetitions of the command to follow the yellow brick road, each at a different pitch until the last one cues in the song.

His superb production repeatedly mounts to elegant peaks of this sort, combining charm and comedy. Paul Greenwood's sweet-tempered Scarecrow sings of his longing for a brain against a chorus of yellow-spatted crows cawing in close harmony or mocking

him by playing tunes on corn cobs.

When it is the turn of the Tin Man — John Rowe, who begins with quite extraordinary squeals while in need of oil — his backing chorus is a threesome of apple trees (rather tart) who shuffle forward on their roots, branches akimbo.

Jim Carter's Cowardly Lion, ginger-mained and bearded like a jolly Karl Marx, later has a song of his own, where, among less roguish rhymes, "elephant" is mated with "cellophane." Yip Harburg's lyrics to Harold Arlen's songs are often tongue in cheek, and this show has rescued one of them, "The Jitterbug" from the oblivion of the cutting room floor. The song has a swarm of black, uniformed US servicemen and their girls jiving around Dorothy in a whirlpool of sinister threat.

Evil is superbly presented by Bille Brown in steely purple, a Bette Davis on a bad trip who makes her last appearance at the top of a curving sweep of Hollywood ebony steps. Dilys Laye is a wittily kind witch, Tony Church a kindly witty Wizard and all too soon it is back to the Kansas barn yard and the reassurance that home is the safest place. Magical.

Jeremy Kingston

JAZZ

Tate/Grey Pizza Express, London

With a combined age of 136 or thereabouts, that well-established double act Buddy Tate and Al Grey ought to be leading the leisurely lives of senior citizens. Instead they remain regular fixtures on the touring circuit.

As Tate's tenor saxophone roared into the theme of "Lester Leaps In", it was difficult to believe that almost half a century has passed since he took his seat in the Red Hot band, replacing the late Herschel Evans.

Grey was a later recruit, joining the revamped orchestra in the late 1950s and quickly establishing himself as one of its most distinctive trombonists. His technique remains formidable: in his solo spot, "Willow Weep for Me" the legato runs and muted tone were still more than a match for most contemporary players.

Approaching the end of their residency at Dean Street, the two have struck up a strong rapport with their backing trio, led by the drummer Jack Parnell, who had his own moment of glory in the jitterbugging Basie anthem "Jumpin' at the Woodside", building the momentum for Tate's final charge.

Clive Davis

Pinero's farce is just dandy

The Cabinet Minister Royal Exchange, Manchester

Here is a real find: a vintage Pinero farce of manifest financial topicality, relaunched in what seems to be its first major revival since 1890.

Written shortly after *The Schoolmistress* and *Dandy Dick*, it is quite as funny as Pinero's other farces, without quite qualifying as a companion piece.

Elsewhere, Pinero constructed specifically Victorian plots. Here he has all those Restoration favourites: the country wife, the bumptious minister, the divided brothers, and the half-time change of location from fashionable London to some far-flung baronial pile.

As in *The Magistrate*, it is the story of a public man devoured by family affairs. The title is the first joke. Sir Julian Twombly may be a cabinet minister — and in Frank Thornton's clerically nuttish-chop whiskered performance he looks as eminent as anything punctured by Lytton Strachey — but the

cares of office are nothing to what he undergoes from the women of his household.

One is his wife, Kitty, the country girl who has taken so readily to London that the household is about to collapse under a mountain of debts. Pinero's answer to the financial deadlock is to put in her the power of an upstart milliner and her husband, whose vulgar habits and greed for marmalade cause no end of embarrassment when the couple gate-crash an exclusive party.

This turn of events would look extremely snobbish were it not for the picture Pinero gives of the polite world they want to join. Its young things are programmed to deliver mindless courtesies like robots. Conversation among the elders is one long bullying campaign for money and desirable matches.

As Kitty, Susan Fleetwood has the delicate job of retaining sympathy while belonging body and soul to this world. She succeeds completely, thanks partly to the direct and witty dialogue, but more to her powers of emotional generosity. Braham Murray has directed a winner.

Irving Wardle

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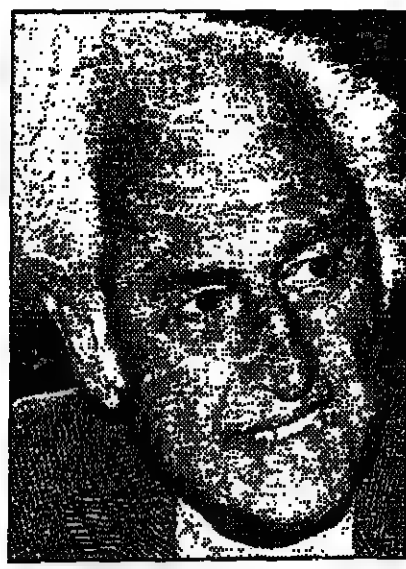
CHRISTMAS TELEVISION AND RADIO

By Peter Waymark



FILMS ON TV

THE JONES BOY: Harrison Ford on the trail of the magical Sankara stone in Steven Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, made in 1984 and having its British television premiere on Christmas Day. A successor to Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, though the story is set two years earlier, the film is another affectionate homage to the old Saturday morning serials — fast, furious, noisy and full of ingenious cliffhangers. For a family film, it is also quite violent and often scary. BBC1, Christmas Day, 3.40-5.35pm.



TV PLAY

GAMBLING MAN: Stewart Granger, the swashbuckling hero of British films in the 1940s, makes a rare television appearance in *The Story of a Rake*. This tale of a gambler (Granger), a young man and a pretty girl was started by Robert Louis Stevenson and has been finished by the Scottish writer and poet, Alasdair Gray, who also appears in the drama as himself. Stevenson turns up, too, played by Bill Bryden, and so do the play's producer (Bill Paterson) and director (David Hayman). BBC2, Christmas Day, 10.35-11.25pm.



TV THRILLER

CLUE SHIFFER: Joan Hickson spent a lifetime in the relative obscurity of supporting roles before rocketing to stardom at the age of 78 as Agatha Christie's sleuth, Miss Marple. That was three years ago and now no Christmas would be complete without her. In *4.50 From Paddington* she is on the scent of a murder committed from a train. The trouble is that there is no body and Detective Inspector Slack (David Horowitz) is convinced that this time the old girl really is round the bend. BBC1, Christmas Day, 8.15-10.05pm.



TV SOAP

STREETWISE: Jean Alexander has been playing the charlatay Hilda Ogden in *Coronation Street* for 23 years. Now she has decided to call it a day, despite petitions from disappointed fans. The talkative, gossipy Hilda, with the head scarf and curlers, ranks with Ena Sharples and Elsie Tanner as one of the *Street*'s most memorable characters. She will take her leave during a special episode of the show which may prove to be an ITV trump card in the Christmas ratings battle with the BBC. ITV, Christmas Day, 7.30-8pm.



FILMS ON TV

MELO YELLOW: Barbara Stanwyck as the American missionary who falls for a Chinese warlord (Nils Asther) in Frank Capra's extraordinary 1932 film, *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*. It had a bumpy ride. As if the interracial love affair was not controversial enough, the film was also considered dangerously erotic and was banned by the British censor. It launches a season of Stanwyck movies on BBC2, mainly dating from the 1940s and early 1950s when she was the queen of Hollywood melodrama. BBC2, Monday, 12.20-1.45am.



RADIO

THE LAD HIMSELF: Tony Hancock returns to the airwaves with one of his early Half Hours, *The Television Set*, which has not been heard since 1955. It is one of five vintage Hancock shows which have been pulled out of the archives for Christmas. Despite his success in television Hancock never surpassed the comic brilliance of his radio shows and they come up as fresh today as they did when first broadcast 30 years ago. Tune in to Radio 4 on Christmas Eve between 12.25 and 12.55pm and at the same time on the next four days.

TODAY

THE BIG LIFT (1950): Montgomery Clift and Paul Douglas as United States airmen at odds with each other during the Berlin airlift. Channel 4, noon-2.15pm.

TARZAN THE APE MAN (1932): The Tarzan debut of the former Olympic swimming champion, Johnny Weissmuller, with Maureen O'Sullivan (mother of Mia Farrow) as Jane. Launches a Weissmuller/Tarzan season. BBC2, 12.25-2pm.

THE SLIPPER AND THE ROSE (1978): Bryan Forbes's faithful, overlong version of Cinderella with pretty decor but forgettable songs. With Gemma Craven as Cinderella and Richard Chamberlain as Prince Charming. BBC2, 4.35-6.55pm.

WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS (1985): Director Emir Kusturica won the top Golden Palm award at Cannes with this charming study of the frustrations and inequities of Yugoslavian life in the 1950s as seen through the eyes of a six-year-old boy. BBC2, 10.50pm-1.05am. British television premiere.

THE ANDERSON TAPES (1971): Sidney Lumet's crisp thriller has Sean Connery as an ex-con with a bold plan to burglar a plush New York apartment, unaware that his every move will be bugged. BBC1, 11.55pm-1.30am.

WELCOME TO LA (1978): Keith Carradine as a moody rock composer bed-hopping his way to fame on the West Coast. The directorial debut of Robert Altman protégé Alan Rudolph. Channel 4, 12.50-2.48am.

TOMORROW

TREASURE ISLAND (1950): Robert Newton overacting memorably as Long John Silver in the Disney version of Stevenson's classic. BBC2, 3-4.35pm.

JAWS (1975): Steven Spielberg's tale of a man-eating shark which threatens Long Island holidaymakers. BBC1, 7.50-9.50pm.

RAQTIME (1981): Solid, selective version by Mike Forman of E. L. Doctorow's fact-and-fiction panorama of America in the 1920s. Look out for James Cagney in his last film role as a comic cop. BBC2, 10.05pm-12.40am.

WING AND A PRAYER (1944): The adventures of an American aircraft carrier in the Pacific after Pearl Harbour. The crew includes Don Ameche and Cedric Hardwicke. Channel 4, 10.10pm-midnight.

MONDAY

TARZAN AND HIS MATE (1934): The best of the Weissmuller Tarzans, a spectacular tale of ivory hunters. The only film directed by Cedric Gibbons, who was much better known as one of Hollywood's top designers. BBC1, 11.50am-1.20pm.

BATTLE OF MIDWAY (1976): Noisy and confused reconstruction of a key battle of the Second World War, with all-star cast led by Charlton Heston and Robert Mitchum. ITV, 1-3.25pm.

THE DESERT SONG (1953): A lively and faithful film version of Sigmund Romberg's desert operetta, with Gordon MacRae and Kathryn Grayson. Channel 4, 2.30-4.30pm.

THREE LITTLE WORDS (1950): Minor, but pleasing, musical based on the lives of songwriters Bert Kalman and Harry Ruby. Launches a season of lesser known Fred Astaire movies. BBC2, 3.50-5.30pm.

FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956): Ingenious and visually beautiful science fiction version of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Walter Pidgeon plays the Prospero-figure, conjuring up monsters, with Anne Francis in the Miranda part. BBC2, 6-7.35pm.

THE WOMAN IN RED (1984): Gene Wilder (who also wrote and directed) as a married man who dreams of adultery, with Kinky La Rock in the title role.

Spirited American version of a French comedy. BBC1, 9.30-10.55pm. British television premiere.

THE BITTER TEA OF GENERAL YEN (1932): See top of page.

TUESDAY

GOING MY WAY (1944): There were Oscars galore for Leo McCarey's sentimental piece in which Bing Crosby as the young priest Father O'Malley spreads the Christmas message in a New York slum. Channel 4, 9.55am-noon.

DIAMONDS ON WHEELS (1972): ITV's bumper Disney season opens with the adventures of young Robert (Peter Firth) whose rally car contains stolen diamonds. ITV, 11am-12.30pm.

TARZAN FINDS A SON (1939): Johnny Sheffield joins the team as "Boy", raised by Tarzan and Jane after surviving an air crash. BBC2, 12.35-1.55pm.

EL DORADO (1967): Gunfighter John Wayne and drunken sheriff Robert Mitchum square up to a vicious cattle baron. Howard Hawks's relaxed Western may cover familiar ground (notably his earlier *Rio Bravo*) but all his professionalism is there and the stars enjoy themselves. ITV, 1-3.25pm.

THE WILDERNESS FAMILY (1975): A Los Angeles family abandons urban life for the wilds of the Rocky Mountains. A modern *Swiss Family Robinson*, directed at the young audience. BBC1, 2.15-5.05pm.

THE TWELVE CHAIRS (1969): Ron Moody leads a frenetic but tedious Mel Brooks comedy about the search for jewels hidden in an old armchair. Channel 4, 2.35-4.20pm.

ROBERTA (1935): An early teaming of Astaire and Rogers though top billing goes to Irene Dunne in this romance about an American who inherits a Paris fashion house. Thrilling musical redeemed by Jerome Kern songs. BBC2, 3.50-5.30pm.

MEET MR LUCIFER (1963): Stanley Holloway playing a dual role in one of the less famous Ealing comedies, a mild satire on television. Channel 4, 5.30-7pm.

DEATH ON THE NILE (1978): Peter Ustinov as Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot solving the murder of an American heiress on the Nile cruiser. The story is ravishing, the plot almost impenetrable. BBC1, 9.30-11.45pm.

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES (1982): Jason Roberts and Jonathan Pryce in Ray Bradbury's dark story of a carnival visiting a small American town. A rare film by British director Jack Clayton. Channel 4, 10-11.45pm.

THE FILE ON THELMA JORDON (1949): Accused of murdering her aunt, Barbara Stanwyck falls in love with the prosecuting attorney, Wendell Corey. A twisty black thriller directed by a master of the genre, Robert Siodmak. BBC2, 12.10-1.50am.

WEDNESDAY

PARADE (1974): The elegant and charming last film of Jacques Tati, made originally for Swedish television. He plays a circus ringmaster and performs his own classic mimes. Channel 4, 10.40am-noon.

TARZAN'S SECRET TREASURE (1941): In which Boy finds himself under threat first from a savage tribe and then a scientific expedition. BBC2, 12.10-1.30pm.

THE STORY OF VERNON AND IRVING CASTLE (1939): Astaire and Rogers play the pre-First World War husband and wife dance team in the last of their famous series of RKO musicals. A polished note on which to end. BBC2, 3.50-5.20pm.

MONSIEUR BEAUCAIRE (1946): Likeable period romp in which Bob Hope plays a barber who gags his way into the court of Louis XV. Channel 4, 5-6.45pm.



Judy Garland about to follow the Yellow Brick Road in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939). It is an enduring piece of Hollywood magic with all the right ingredients — a fetching heroine, a raft of delightfully played character parts (Scarecrow, The Man, Cowardly Lion and Wicked Witch), rich Technicolor and marvellous songs, including the poignant and unforgettable "Over the Rainbow". A film for children of all ages. BBC2, 6-7.40pm.

KELLY'S HEROES (1970): A relentless barrage of noise and destruction as Clint Eastwood leads his renegade army platoon in search of gold in occupied France. BBC1, 9.30-11.50pm.



Join Lou, Ian, Kathy, Arthur and the rest of Albert Square for a Christmas Day edition of EastEnders. BBC1, 3.10pm.

Dim the house lights, settle in your seats and tune in to our critical guide to 55 movies playing on television during Christmas week. The ratings system, which should give plenty to argue about, is:

● not to be missed ● highly recommended ● well worth watching

SORRY, WRONG NUMBER (1948): Barbara Stanwyck pulling out all the stops as the bedridden neurotic who overhears a murder plot on a crossed telephone line and realises that she is the intended victim. BBC2, 10.40pm-12.10am.

WHEN THE NORTH WIND BLOWS (1974): Pleasant family film about Alaskan trappers who adopt two tiger cubs. BBC1, 11am-12.55pm.

THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON (1960): John Mills leads a genial Disney version of the famous children's story about a shipwrecked family. ITV, 1-3.20pm.

TARZAN'S NEW YORK ADVENTURE (1942): Tarzan and Jane leave the jungle for the Big Apple to recover their kidnapped boy. Johnny Weissmuller's last Tarzan film. BBC2, 1-2.10pm.

42nd STREET (1933): Chorus girl Ruby Keeler gets her big chance when bitzy leading lady Bebe Daniels breaks an ankle. "You're going out a youngster, but you've got to come back a star!" orders harassed producer, Warner. BBC2, 10.25pm-12.20am. British television premiere.

KING OF JAZZ (1930): A rare chance to see a diverting early musical, shot in Technicolor and featuring the bandleader Paul Whiteman and, making his first film appearance, Bing Crosby. Channel 4, 11.30pm-1.20am.

THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW (1956): The Barbara Stanwyck season ends with this superior Douglas Sirk weeper in which she is the old flame whose unexpected reappearance threatens Fred MacMurray's happy marriage. BBC2, 12.20-1.40am.

THE BOSTONIANS (1984): Tasteful, decorative and slow-moving adaptation by the Merchant Ivory team of Henry James's novel of female emancipation. Madeleine Potter is the young feminist, Christopher Reeve her obsessive suitor. BBC2, 10.25pm-12.20am. British television premiere.

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CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CHEATERS (1945): Joseph Schildkraut as a down-and-out actor who spreads the Christmas message among a selfish family. BBC2, 9.10-10.35am.

WHITE CHRISTMAS (1954): The old seasonal standby with Danny Kaye, Bing Crosby and lots of Irving Berlin hits. BBC2, 10.35am-12.30pm.

DUMBO (1941): Delightful feature-length Disney cartoon about the little circus elephant. ITV, 11.30am-12.40pm.

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (1977): Tired addition to the James Bond series, with 007 Roger Moore pitted against megalomaniac Curt Jurgens. ITV, 12.40-3pm.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND (1951): Decent Disney cartoon version despite the American accents. ITV, 3.10-4.30pm.

LA TRAVIATA (1982): Franco Zeffirelli's vibrant film of the Verdi opera, a visual and musical feast. With Teresa Stratas and Plácido Domingo. BBC2, 3.10-4.55pm.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SATURDAY

BBC1 WALES 8.15-9.30pm: Sports News Wales. 10.15-11.15pm: *Christmas Eve*. 11.15-12.15pm: *Christmas Eve*. 12.15-1.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 1.15-2.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 2.15-3.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 3.15-4.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 4.15-5.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 5.15-6.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 6.15-7.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 7.15-8.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 8.15-9.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 9.15-10.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 10.15-11.15am: *Christmas Eve*. 11.15-

SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SUNDAY

Even before the credit titles have had a chance to roll, our portly transporter is into jokes about the Japanese language and Japanese seafood. He describes Tokyo as "looking like what happened to Birmingham after they had finished improving it". In other words, Clive James in Japan (ITV, 10.05pm) runs true to form. His basic gag is his inability to speak the language, which is a case of repeatedly getting lost in the middle of Tokyo and having fun at the expense of the natives. If it is all a shade patronising, it is also very funny. Along the way, there are some delicious vignettes of the hi-tech society, as when James turns up in the foyer of

a big office block and is greeted by a female receptionist who is a robot. Clasp the hand that has so long fed him, he actually appears in a television game show, though since the show is ridiculous to start with, James's attempts to lard the humour seem redundant. He also samples the dubious comforts of the "capsule" hotel, which offers coffin-sized bedrooms to Japanese businessmen who go out on the town and miss the last train home. Part two is being shown on Boxing Day.

Peter Waymark



Med, mad, glorious mad: Clive James learns how Orientalists relax in his two-part series. Part one, ITV, 10.05pm



Melvyn Bragg finds out about life on the Isle of Man in Sunday night's Channel Four documentary, at 7.15

CHOICE

"One of the charms of the Isle of Man", says Melvyn Bragg, "is its detachment from the present. There's still a feeling of the Forties and Fifties". The time-warps go back a lot further than that, what with butchers still putting sawdust on their floors and garages displaying pre-war Castrol signs and steam trains and horse-drawn trams. In Land of Mann (Channel 4, 7.15pm) Bragg does a television version of *Down Your Way*, interviewing local people about the island's history and working in reference to tailless cats and income tax

at 20p in the £. Bragg mentions that picture postcards are still censored. It would be interesting to know why, and by whom. On a more serious level, more might have been said about the island's use as an internment camp for enemy aliens during both the World Wars. We gather the Isle of Man is no longer the tourist attraction it once was, but is this really because people are worried about the nuclear fallout from Sellafield? Bragg wonders whether the island can continue to maintain its privileged independence, but his only answer is a quip about having three legs to stand on.

P.W.

BBC1

- 8.20 *Roobarb* (r). 8.25 *Saturday Night Here with Corrie* (r). 8.40 *ChuckleVision* 9.00 *The Muppet Babies*. 9.30 *Going Live!* The guests include Rick Astley, Curiosity Killed the Cat, Pet Shop Boys and Christopher Bigsby. 12.12 *Weather*. 12.15 *Grandstand*. Introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.15 *Cricket*: Pakistan v England; 12.25 *Football Focus*: 12.45, 1.15 and 1.50 *Racing from Ascot*: 1.00 *News*: 1.05, 2.05 and 3.10 *Rugby League Focus* and coverage of the second semi-final of the John Player Trophy; 1.30 *Motor Racing from Brands Hatch*: 2.55 and 4.25 *Swings from Yiff* and Italy; 3.50 *Half-time*; 3.55 *Show Jumping from Olympia*; 4.40 *Final Score*. 5.00 *News with Moira Stuart*. 5.15 *Regional news* sport. 5.20 *Hill Harts* cartoon. 5.45 *Telly Addicts*. The Chinery family from Dorset and the Brustads of Gwent meet in the final. Presented by Noel Edmonds. 6.15 *Family and Other Animals*. Last episode. (Coefax) 6.45 *Bob's Full House*. Bingo quiz game presented by Bob Wright. (Coefax) 7.25 *Hi-de-Hi!* It's circus time at Mappins and Ted loses his heart to a camper (r). (Coefax) 8.10 *Weekend Update*. Women's diaries and the casualty staff are accused of negligence. Will the coroner agree? (Coefax) 9.00 *Ant and Dec's Night Out*. With Moira Stuart. 9.15 *Cagney and Lacey*. The two women police officers enter the eclectic world of rock music when investigating the theft of a video from a night club. Starring Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly. (Coefax) 10.00 *Stanley Baxter's Picture Palace*. Superb comedy impressions. The guest is Lesley Turner. 10.30 *International Show*. Jumping from Olympia featuring the Modern Alarms Pussances. 11.55 *Phil: The Anderson*. (see facing page) 1.30 *Weather*.

BBC2

- 8.00 *Coefax*. 11.00 *Carols for Christmas*. From St David's Hall, Cardiff. With the BBC Welsh Chorus conducted by John Hughes. The choruses include the Trumplers of the Welsh Guards and organist Huw Tegwyl Williams. The organist is Chris Morgan. 12.05 *The Sky at Night*. Patrick Moore talks to Andrew Murray of the Royal Greenwich Observatory about Hippocrates (r). 12.25 *Phil: Tazman the Ape-man*. (see facing page) 2.00 *Phil: Time Masters* (1982). An animated science fiction adventure based on a novel by Stefan Wul and directed by René Laloux. 3.30 *Fred Astaire Putting on the Top Hat*. The first of two documentary tributes to the late entertainer features clips from his *Top Hat*, *Swing Time* and *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle*. With contributions from Gene Kelly, Ginger Rogers, Sandra Sarmiento, Hal Borm and Hermes Pan. 4.00 *International Bridge Club*, presented by Clare Harrison. With Tony Forrester, Sami Khele, Zilla Black and P.O. Sundelin. 4.30 *Phil: The Slipper and the Rose*. (Coefax) (see facing page) 6.00 *NewsView*. Moira Stuart with the day's news; Richard Whitmore reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles. 7.25 *Beethoven's Mass*. Solomoni from St David's Hall, Cardiff. Sir Colin Davis conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, the Arwyn Singers, the BBC Welsh Chorus and the Cardiff Polyphonic Choir, with soloists Margaret Price (soprano), Alfreda Hodgson (contralto), Keith Lewis (tenor) and Stafford Dean (bass). 9.15 *Phil: Le Dernier des Indes* (1987). A documentary featuring some 70 clips from films featured in the 40 year history of the Cannes Film Festival. Comedies include Gable, Jacob, the current director of the Festival. 10.30 *Phil: When Father Was Away on Business*. (see facing page) Ends at 1.05.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am* includes news and weather 7.30 *The Wide World of Sports* for children. 9.25 *No. 73 Entertainment* for the young 11.00 *The Big Bang* (r). 11.30 *Proclaim the Box* (r). 12.00 *The Celebrity Rally*. A three-discipline sprint event from Brands Hatch. 1.00 *News* 1.05 *Saint & Greaves*. Ian and Jimmy review the week's football news and look forward to the weekend's programme 1.25 *Wrestling from Watney Town Hall*, Cheshire. 2.15 *International Athletics*. The HFC/AC Cross-Country in the grounds of Cardiff Castle. 3.00 *Brookside* (r). 3.30 *International* from Alexandra Palace, London. 4.45 *Results Service*. 5.00 *ALF*. Adventures of an alien life form in suburban America. 5.30 *The A-Team*. After crash-landing on a Polynesian island, Murdoch is regarded as a king by the natives. 6.25 *3-2-1*. Game show presented by Ted Rogers. The guests include Bernie Winters, Gareth Hunt and Pat Coombs. 7.30 *Blind Date*. Roy meets girl show presented by Zilla Black and P.O. Sundelin. 8.15 *A Royal Gala in aid of the Prince's Trust* from the London Palladium. Among those performing before the Prince and Princess of Wales are Rowan Atkinson, Art Garfunkel, Elton John, Mel Smith and Sarah Brightman. 8.45 *News and sport*. 10.05 *Clive James in Japan*. (see Choice) 11.05 *Tom Jones*. Tom Jones. A musical comedy. 12.00 *News*. 12.05 *Investigator and his assistant*. A break-in at the house of a newswoman who received a call at her office by a man who said he was just committed a murder. 1.00 *Night Network*. Includes Mick Brown and Steve Davis reviewing the latest videos and the Football. Comedies include actor Nick Compton. 4.00 *The Gambler*. The second and final part of the drama starring Kenny Rogers. 5.40 *Christmas Caravan*. Times. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 8.35 *Sam*. The life and thoughts of an elderly American writer (r). 10.00 *Moneyclipper* (r). 10.30 *Scotland's Story*. Part 22 (r). 11.00 *Comic Country* (r). 1.30 *Deafcan* (r). 12.00 *Phil: The Big Lift* (b/w). (see facing page) 2.15 *Movie Museum*. *Scenes of the Field* (b/w). A 1924 comedy silent about jockeys. 2.30 *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Oscar Wilde's comedy of winners starring Dame Wendy Hiller in the role of the formidable Lady Bracknell (r). (Oracle) 4.30 *Countdown*. A quarter-final encounter between the number two and number one. 5.05 *Brookside* (r). (Oracle) 5.00 *Right to Reply*. Should alcoholic drink advertising be banned from television? Among those taking part in the discussion are representatives of advertisers, brewers, lobbyists, the BAA and the Home Office working group on young people and alcohol. 5.30 *News summary* and weather followed by *People Get Ready*. A programme of gospel music. Among those appearing are Beverley Wint, David Copeland and charity news: Duncan Goodenew appeals on behalf of the British Paralympic Sports Society. 6.30 *News with Moira Stuart*. 6.35 *Songs of Praise* from St Andrew's Wesley Church, Vancouver, B.C. (Coefax) 7.15 *Last of the Summer Wine*. Seymour decides that traditional Christmas festivities should be restored (r). 7.30 *Phil: Java*. (Coefax) (see facing page) 8.00 *News with Moira Stuart*. 8.10 *Everyman*. The 12-year-old Young to Brigadier Babuka and other Filip political and religious leaders about the island's religious and racial divides. 10.45 *International Show*. Jumping from Olympia featuring the Crossed and the Grand Prix. 11.30 *The Secret Life of Paintings*. Lady Wedgwood describes "The Madonna and Child" by Jan Van Eyck (r). 12.15 *Weather*.

BBC1

- 6.35 *Play School* 8.15 *Articles of Faith* 9.30 *This is the Day from a New Year's Eve in Hollywood*. Co. Down. 10.00 *Bazzar* (r). 10.30 *Talking Business* (r). 11.00 *News* 11.30 *Blue Peter* (r). 11.55 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.15 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 12.45 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.15 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 1.45 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.15 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 2.45 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.15 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 3.45 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.15 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 4.45 *News*. 5.00 *News*. 5.15 *News*. 5.30 *News*. 5.45 *News*. 6.00 *News*. 6.15 *News*. 6.30 *News*. 6.45 *News*. 7.00 *News*. 7.15 *News*. 7.30 *News*. 7.45 *News*. 8.00 *News*. 8.15 *News*. 8.30 *News*. 8.45 *News*. 9.00 *News*. 9.15 *News*. 9.30 *News*. 9.45 *News*. 10.00 *News*. 10.15 *News*. 10.30 *News*. 10.45 *News*. 11.00 *News*. 11.15 *News*. 11.30 *News*. 11.45 *News*. 12.00 *News*. 12.15 *News*. 12.30 *News*. 12.45 *News*. 1.00 *News*. 1.15 *News*. 1.30 *News*. 1.45 *News*. 2.00 *News*. 2.15 *News*. 2.30 *News*. 2.45 *News*. 3.00 *News*. 3.15 *News*. 3.30 *News*. 3.45 *News*. 4.00 *News*. 4.15 *News*. 4.30 *News*. 4.45 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Violence in Gaza Strip brings threat to hostages

From Juan Carlos Gammio, west Beirut

Muslim extremists holding three Americans and an Indian hostage last night threatened to take unspecified reprisals on their captives if Israel continued its crackdown on Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The threat was made in a statement of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization delivered to the Beirut daily *Al Nahar* along with colour photographs of Mr Jesse Turner and Mr Robert Polhill. The two Americans were kidnapped almost a year ago in west Beirut by gunmen posing as policemen. They were seized along with Mr Alan Stein, also an American, and Mr Mitleshwar Singh, an Indian. All of them worked as teachers at the American-affiliated Beirut University College.

The photographs released last night appeared to be of Mr Polhill with two automatic weapons pointing to his head.

The statement said that the group may "resort to extreme negative actions against the US and Israel" and "use all the cards it holds, including the four Mossad spies, if the criminal policy of repelling the uprising and killing the innocents continues".

JERUSALEM: Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, responded to the threats through his press spokesman, Mr Avi Pazner: "I hope that they will not carry out this threat. Certainly such threats are not effective as far as Israel is concerned" (Ian Murray writes).

Two shot dead in Israeli crackdown

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

There was no let-up in the violence sweeping the Israeli occupied territories yesterday, with two more Palestinians being shot dead in the Gaza Strip, a boy aged 14 dying of wounds suffered there on Wednesday and a man aged 70 collapsing and dying outside the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem when teargas was used to break up a demonstration.

The deaths came as the Foreign Ministry set up an emergency team to try to counter growing criticism from around the world at the brutal way Israeli security forces are reported to be putting down disturbances which have now lasted 11 days.

Yesterday's most serious trouble started immediately after prayers in the mosques, during which the message up and down the territories was to resist the occupation.

In Shajayia, a particularly depressed area of Gaza Town, the demonstration outside the mosque grew particularly violent after troops fired teargas inside. They eventually opened fire, with one person killed. The same pattern occurred at el-Bureij camp, to its south, and six people were reported wounded.

At the al-Aqsa mosque Friday prayers also ended with a

demonstration as Arab youths threw stones at Israeli soldiers.

There were widespread demonstrations throughout the Gaza Strip despite the much increased military presence there. An extra eight regiments, totalling about 5,000 men, have been sent to the area, in addition to the regular contingent of army and border police which number about 1,000.

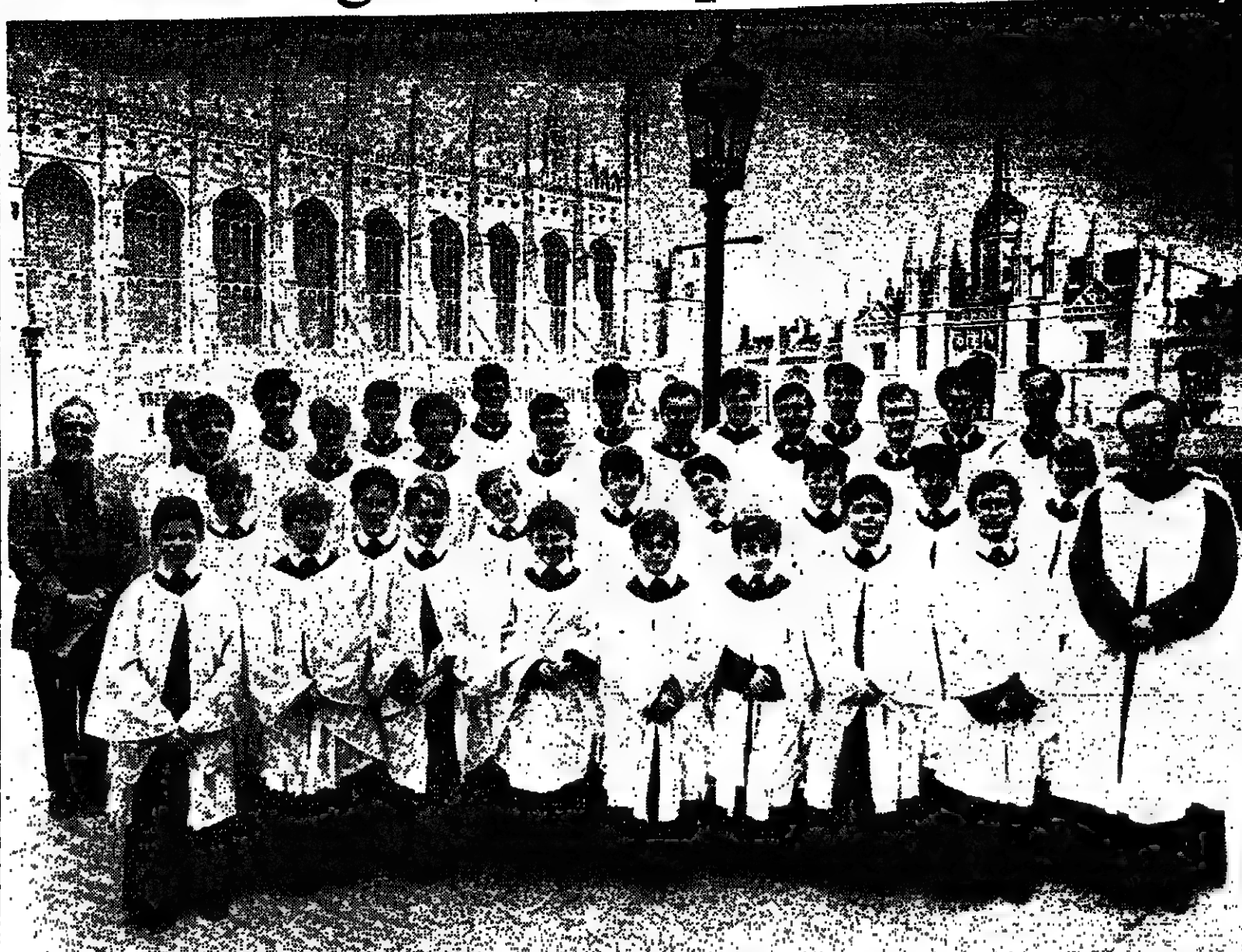
Elsewhere in the West Bank there were other demonstrations and a few stones thrown, but everything was in a lower key than over the past week. Gaza, by contrast, remains as tense and volatile as ever.

In what appears to be a different context, the British consulate in East Jerusalem was the target of a petrol bomb late on Thursday evening. It fell harmlessly outside the building.

The American consulate in East Jerusalem was similarly bombed last Sunday evening. The attack came just after it was broadcast that there had been strong criticism of Israel by the US State Department.

The British consul general, Mr Ivan Callan, has been in the news for organizing a tour of the occupied territories for Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who has responsibility for the Middle East.

Cambridge warms up for Christmas



Amid the commercial jungle of the season, the choir of King's College Chapel, Cambridge stands aloft for millions of its devotees around the world as the true keepers of Christmas. Yesterday the 32 choristers paused

outside the chapel in the grounds of King's College for a photograph during their traditionally exhorting Christmas programme with (left) Mr Gerald Peacock, headmaster of King's College School, and (right) Mr

Stephen Cleobury, Director of Music and Organist, King's College. The choristers, whose daily devotion would have impressed their musical ancestors, the monks in the time of Henry VI when the choir was founded,

were rehearsing and recording carols beneath the ancient vaulting for a BBC Television broadcast from the chapel on Christmas Eve. On Monday the choir will be singing at Stamps. Photograph: John Rogers

Teachers may be 'fined' for striking

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Government is planning to "fine" teachers who go on strike by changing their pension arrangements. The move was announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

At present, striking teachers can protect their pension rights by paying both their own and their employer's contributions for the time they were on strike.

Under the proposed new arrangements, teachers who strike will have to pay both contributions, equivalent to 15.5 per cent of their salary, for a minimum period of 30 days.

Alternatively, they will be able to wait until they retire and then have the contributions for the days they went on strike deducted from their lump sums. However, those

deductions will be based on what they are earning immediately before they retire and not on what they were earning when they went on strike.

The plan was condemned by the teaching unions. Mr Peter Smith, deputy general secretary of the Assistant Masters' and Mistresses' Association, described it as petty and vindictive.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, whose members are pledged never to strike, said the proposal was unjust, unreasonable and punitive.

Mr Baker said there would be a one-month consultation period. He expects the regulations, which will be laid before Parliament, to come into effect next April.

US expels alleged Soviet spy at UN

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States is expelling Mr Mikhail Katkov, a Second Secretary at the Soviet mission to the United Nations in New York, for alleged espionage.

"We expect him to depart shortly, but I don't have any particular time to offer," the State Department spokesman said. Mr Katkov was being expelled for "engaging in activities which are in abuse of his privileges of residence under the United Nations headquarters agreement."

"Abuse of privileges of residence" is a phrase frequently used by the State Department to refer to espionage, the spokesman explained.

Mr Katkov was apprehended on Thursday by the FBI, but the spokesman would not give details of his alleged spying activities or what he was doing at the time of his detention.

The incident comes just a week after President Reagan's summit meeting here with Mr

Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Asked how serious the incident was and whether it would "rattle the superpower relationship", the spokesman said: "These are the kinds of cases we have from time to time. We take espionage seriously, and we pursue these cases whenever they come up."

"This is another one of them. Concerning the impact on the relationship, I don't really know that I'd predict anything in particular."

But he added that there would be "no justification for the Soviet side to retaliate in a case like this" by carrying out a "tit-for-tat" explosion.

Asked if there was a deliberate effort not to arrest him either immediately before or during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the spokesman said: "I don't know what other opportunities could have existed. In any case, this action was precipitated by his own actions at that moment at which he was apprehended."

£10,000 for mother and girl in sex abuse blunder

Continued from page 1

Her divorced mother, aged 38, from Norton, Cleveland, whose former husband was called back from abroad, became suicidal as she was questioned about her sex life and boy friends.

The finger of suspicion was finally lifted in the Appeal

Court yesterday from two parents whose children were caught up in a Cleveland child sex abuse controversy.

But three judges were divided in dismissing wardship orders on the couple's three young daughters who had been diagnosed as abuse victims by the consultant

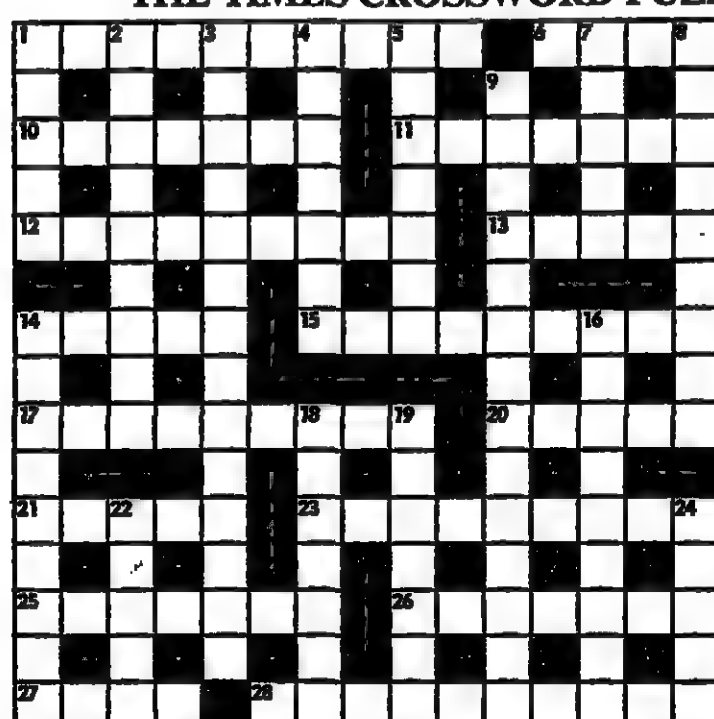
paediatrician, Dr Marietta Higgs.

The children were being with foster parents after being examined by her fellow paediatrician, Dr Geoffrey Wyatt in June this year. Nearly seven weeks later a High Court judge rejected the

two doctors' evidence and allowed the children home. But he refused to lift the wardships from the children.

Yesterday Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Purches said the orders should be lifted. But Lord Justice Dillon said the judge was entitled to take the course he did.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,544

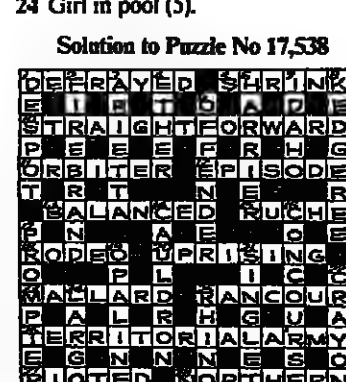
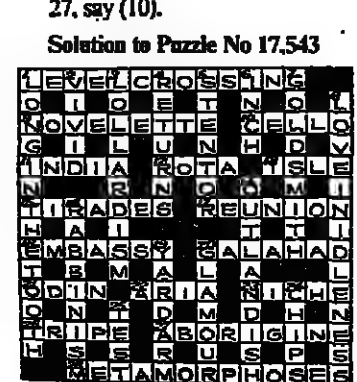


ACROSS

- Put up defence to tie game (10).
- Returned instrument to march with (4).
- Fruit giving wise a bit of body (7).
- Rodents in sleeping quarters freeze (7).
- Most unusual compass, in two ways (9).
- Top mark achievable in final phase (5).
- Greeting that man will love to get (5).
- Preventer of leaks is more loyal (9).
- Unofficially informative fruit-producer (9).
- A learner among three-quarters in Rugby stronghold (5).
- Sheepish type who tricked hunter (5).
- Daily grind? Clerical occupation (9).
- Rabbits with all the virtues? (7).
- Work fast outside university to get rich (7).
- Rescue vessel on South Island (4).
- New penny Neddy needed for 27, say (10).

DOWN

- Sudden moves in board game (5).
- Large island in a lake in European country (9).
- Second's providing support deceitfully (6,4).
- At home with the newspapers, but coming out soon (2,5).
- Got idea developed for showy annual (7).
- Colonel's aircraft (5).
- Reference book, therefore, about 21's twin? Right (9).
- Harrow, for the first time, to be innovative (5,3,6).
- In Oxford Street, dodges merry-making (4,5).
- Time for wiles - another spell for 14ac to consider (9).
- Has-been's confession in deadlock (7).
- Investigate and record knowledge about unknown quantity (7).
- Fielder caught a number of balls (5).
- Girl in pool (5).



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

SEMORINLAP

- The King of Laputa
- A distance at racing
- A reversal

EAGRE

- The female sea eagle
- A headache
- A tidal wave

CHIEVEVACHE

- A mountain
- A cavalcade
- A milking stool

SHEEMACH

- A seaweed
- Turkish mutton
- A snap of hair

Solutions page 20, column 8

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs M Camilleri, Stonehouse Lane, Cookham Dean, Maidenhead, Berks; E Finnigan, Raleigh Ave, St Helier, Jersey; Mrs E Plumridge, Middleton Rd, Yaxford, Saxmundham, Suffolk; R Scott, Beechwood, Melrose, Roxburghshire; W M Saxon, Queens Rd, Hazelegrove, Stockport, Cheshire.

WEATHER

Most places will be dry at first although there will be some rain over Northern Ireland. During the morning this rain will spread steadily east across to the rest of Britain, but north-eastern areas will probably stay dry until the afternoon. The rain is likely to be heaviest over northern Britain, lighter in the south and most of this will be around western coasts and over hills. Winds in the south will be moderate to fresh and temperatures will be mild. There will be fog around western and southern coasts and also over hills during the day. During the evening clearer showery weather will reach Scotland and Northern Ireland. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: rain in places tomorrow, becoming showery on Monday.

ABROAD

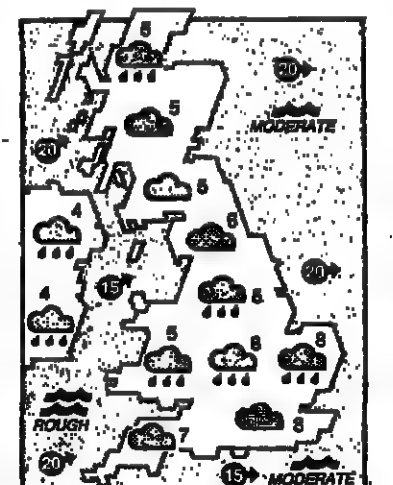
	C	F	M	G	F
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
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Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	
Algeria	18	84	19	58	

AROUND BRITAIN

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11

	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
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London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11
London	11	11	11	11

AM



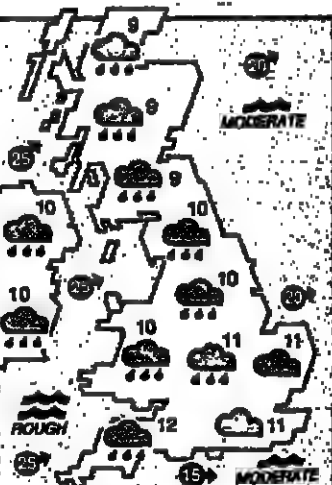
LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 14C (57F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6 pm to 6 pm, 11C (52F). Rain: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm. Sun: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm. Sea: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.23 pm to 7.33 am
Edinburgh 4.09 pm to 7.42 am
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.32 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.48 am

PM



MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Wind: 6 pm to 6 pm, 11C (52F). Rain: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm. Sun: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm. Sea: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1mm.

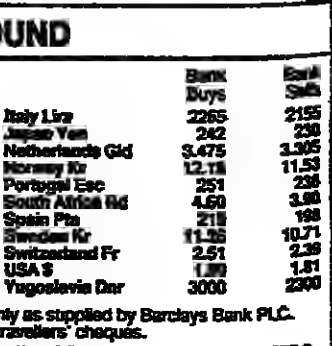
YESTERDAY

Temperature at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, rain; S, sun.
Belfast 11 52
Birmingham 11 52
Bristol 11 52
Cardiff 11 52
Edinburgh 11 52
Glasgow 11 52
London 11 52
Manchester 11 52
Newcastle 11 52
Penzance 11 52
Sheffield 11 52
Southampton 11 52
Stoke 11 52
Tyneside 11 52
Wolverhampton 11 52
Wrexham 11 52

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: 11.5C (53F). Lowest night temp: 10.5C (51F). Highest rain: 0.1mm. Lowest rain: 0.1mm. Highest sun: 0.1mm. Lowest sun: 0.1mm.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.85	2.51	2.51
Belgium S	21.75	20.85	20.85
Canada \$	94.75	61.65	3.475
Denmark Kr	11.53	11.33	11.33
France F	7.71	7.31	7.31
Germany DM	10.41	9.91	9.91
Greece Dr	228	248	248
Hong Kong \$	14.85	13.95	13.95
India Rupee	1.755	1.755	1.755
Italy Lire	2095	2095	2095
Japan Yen	242	242	242
Netherlands Gld	3.475	3.475	3.475
Norway Kr	12.18	12.18	12.18
Portugal Esc	201	201	201
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	11.33	11.33	11.33
Switzerland Fr	2.21	2.21	2.21
USA \$	1.51	1.51	1.51
Yugoslavia Din	3000	3000	3000

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 103.4 (November) London: The FT Index closed up 11.2 at 1377.9.

Cadbury spends £95m on French chocolate factories

By Cliff Feltman

Cadbury Schweppes, the chocolate and soft drinks group which is facing a potential takeover bid from the big American General Cinema conglomerate, is pressing ahead with its own expansion programme overseas.

In a £95 million deal, the British confectionery group is taking over Chocolat Poulain, one of the leading French manufacturers of branded chocolate products.

Last year, Chocolat Poulain, which employs about 750 people in two factories at Blois, outside Paris, earned approximately £5.58 million on turnover of £84.7 million. Tangible assets were £15.2 million.

The takeover is the latest in a series by the British group aimed at building up its two core businesses, confectionery and soft drinks.

"The acquisition of Chocolat Poulain represents a significant step forward in the company's confectionery strategy and an expansion in the confectionery market in France, where Cadbury has historically had a small presence and where Chocolat Poulain has been an established manufacturer since 1848," the group said.

Chocolat Poulain is estimated to have roughly 17 per cent of the French market for moulded bars and other chocolate products. But it is a much more influential force in the market for chocolate-based drinks, accounting for



Sweet success on the takeover trail: Sir Adrian Cadbury

about 23 per cent of current sales.

Cadbury Schweppes has been anxious to increase its sales throughout Europe in both areas and the acquisition is expected to provide a platform for other takeovers within these sectors.

The company stressed yesterday that the takeover of Chocolat Poulain was not a

defensive move aimed at frustrating an eventual takeover bid from General Cinema.

"We always intended to build up our core businesses and this is what we are doing," a spokesman said. "We have had no contact with General Cinema."

The American group launched a dawn raid on Cadbury Schweppes last month to lift its total holding to 18.2 per cent, increasing speculation that the British group's days of independence could be numbered.

However, this does not seem to have hindered the plans of Sir Adrian Cadbury, the chairman, who has been busy on the acquisition trail. These have included an Australian soft drinks group, an American supplier of cocktail mixers, and Red Check, the US apple juice firm bought from the Hereford cider maker HP Bulmer.

On the stock market, Cadbury Schweppes shares ended the session at 255p, up 1p yesterday.

Power producers fear sale 'sham'

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Britain's independent electricity producers yesterday called on the Government to ensure that they were paid a "fair" price for their power and to prevent the privatization of the electricity supply industry becoming "a sham."

The Association of Independent Electricity Producers said that last week's changes to the bulk supply tariff (BST) announced by the Central Electricity Generating Board would not, as claimed, benefit the private producers.

Mr George Rufford, association chairman, said the net result of the changes to the BST and the decision of Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, to raise the CEGB's financial target, would be that the CEGB would still be paid 30 per cent more than independent producers.

The association was disturbed that a marginal improvement in the BST was being presented by the CEGB as a major effort to encourage competition.

At a meeting yesterday with Sir Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, Mr Rufford made clear the association's disquiet that the BST changes had been announced before the CEGB consulted the council, the Electricity Consumers' Council or the Department of Energy.

"This does not augur well for a privatized industry in which the CEGB may be left largely intact."

The private power producers generate about 1,000 megawatts a year, about the same amount as that produced by a power station such as Sizewell, from various sources including landfill gas, tidal, water and wind power.

The association claims that excluding non-CEGB nuclear generated electricity, the independent producers account for 0.35 per cent of the country's total electricity demand with the bulk being consumed in members' own operations.

Mr Rufford said that Sir Philip had declined to reveal details of a recent report on the BST prepared by Price Waterhouse, the accountant, which the association believes justifies a much higher price for independent producers. Mr Miles Green of the CEGB said later: "We believe that average 11 per cent increase in the BST will give the independent producers a fair return without being to the disadvantage of electricity consumers."

Bent on thwarting British and best

Without the British Government - albeit one of a different stamp - British Petroleum might never have seen the light of day, let alone become the biggest all-British company. Three quarters of a century later, Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of BP, must think of today's British Government as an unfair burden that no other leading multinational company has to bear.

In the space of a few months, the Government has turned a BP rights issue into a national event, damaged the group's name in the capital markets for years ahead and, in selling its own shareholding, has unwittingly left Kuwait as the biggest shareholder.

The Government share sale was based around an advertising campaign designed to portray BP as embodying everything that was British and best. Yet now, senior Cabinet ministers seem bent on thwarting this same company's attempt to increase its interest in Britain's own North Sea.

It is hard to make sense of Nigel Lawson's statement yesterday that he would exercise the rights of the Treasury's golden share in Britoil to prevent BP taking control of the board if its takeover bid succeeded. Mr Lawson is a former Energy Secretary as familiar with the privatization of Britoil as of Enterprise Oil.

The launch of Enterprise saw the first exercise of a golden share. The issue flopped, RTZ bought up Enterprise shares from underwriters but the Government vetoed RTZ control. This was easy to understand. The object was to float Enterprise as an independent entity with a widespread public shareholding, even though it might have fetched a higher price in other ways.

That is hardly a precedent for Britoil, since a wide spread of shareholders can make their own choice in what BP and Britoil regard as changed circumstances. Nor can it relate to the future of Enterprise since that golden share can be redeemed at the end of 1988.

Motives will inevitably be teased out over the coming weeks since BP has opted to see the Treasury's hand by pushing ahead with its bid. Pending a ruling by the Takeover Panel, it intends to buy the whole of Britoil's capital and, in a free market, is likely to succeed even if Arco (also covered by the Treasury warning) still braves a counter offer.

BP maintains that it is not defying the Government. In this, it is relying on its experience of a controlling government shareholding in the past. Under the Bradbury rules, the state nominated two BP directors, but they did not act as government agents and the state did not interfere. BP would not mind, it innocently maintains, if the Treasury kept control of the Britoil board, since it would want to act in shareholders' interests.

The Treasury's intention may not, be

as clear as it seems. A warning directed principally at Arco would not make sense. Britoil, as the former British National Oil Corporation, once had a special position in the North Sea. But that status is long past, persist as it may in the minds of some Labour MPs. If the intention is to maintain the independent North Sea sector, action will need to go beyond the Treasury to other departments.

There might be references of BP's bid (together with the French Elf offer for Tricentrol) to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. And the Department of Energy could make threats about North Sea licences.

By the time the BP offer for Britoil closes, the public sector is again likely to be a substantial shareholder in BP. On present prices, the Bank of England guarantee on the new BP shares will be taken up by most holders, except the Kuwaitis. A veto on BP control of Britoil would then take on an even more odd dimension.

Now the good news

The gilt-edged market, for once, responded in the right way yesterday to a genuine piece of good news. The November money supply figures contained no nasties. Set against gloomy fears of £6 billion or £7 billion bank lending growth, this in itself was a source of considerable relief.

Annual growth in M3 of more than 21 per cent cannot be entirely regarded as comforting news. But even that was better than almost 23 per cent a month ago.

The best news for the market was not in the stability of the aggregates or even that bank lending growth, at £3.2 billion, was below its average of the previous three months. It was, instead, the return of domestic buyers to the market, in net terms, for the first time for many a month.

It can be surmised that this buying was mainly in the earlier part of last month, following the first two of the three half-point base rate cuts since the October stock market crash. Even so, healthy demand for the convertible tap this week suggests that there is life in the gilt-edged market yet.

The new factor is the tumbling oil price. Opec's inconclusive agreement and the subsequent fall in spot prices has come at just the right time for the US bond market, where the old worries about inflation were resurfacing. Yesterday, the long bond yield fell below 9 per cent, adding further aid for gilt-edged.

For both Britain and the US, the clutch of recent economic data points to economic growth that is a little too fast for bond market comfort. The fall in world oil prices provides additional reason to believe that inflationary fears have been overstated.

Woolworth dispute settled

The dispute between Woolworth and Mr Malcolm Parkinson, the former director of the company, has been resolved.

The company sought and obtained an injunction against Mr Parkinson on Tuesday, preventing him from revealing any confidential information.

A joint statement last night said: "Mr Parkinson has strongly denied from the outset that he was responsible for the leak of any confidential information or documents."

"He reaffirmed when he left Woolworths in November that he would never disclose any confidential information, and has now given the court an undertaking to the same effect. Woolworths has therefore agreed to the injunction against Mr Parkinson being discharged."

"The parties having thus agreed to resolve their differences, it has been accepted by each of them that it would be inappropriate for either to make any further statement on this dispute."

The injunctions obtained against the *Evening Standard* and Mr Stephen Hargrave, a journalist with the *Evening Standard*, remain in force, the statement said.

City funds call for a better system of share dealing

By Lawrence Lever

Three-quarters of the investment institutions interviewed by Rosters, the financial publisher, complained of dealing problems during and after the October market crash.

The financial institutions surveyed included Abbey Life, Allied Dunbar, Barclays Unicorn, Fidelity, Gartmore, Henderson, Mercury, NM Schroder, Save & Prosper, Standard Life and TSB.

Their complaints focus on the lack of marketability of second and third-line stocks, the inability to deal in size and

the widening of spreads in the crash.

Rosters says "the majority" of institutions interviewed wanted to see the share-dealing system improved. And one wanted to see "greater control by the Stock Exchange to enforce willingness to deal in size."

Another wanted to see "less herd-like marking down of prices by just watching screens." Also recommended was "better training for market-makers so that the inexperienced are not exposed to market conditions unless

they are confident in handling large volumes."

Providing volume figures for beta stocks was suggested. Volume figures for beta stocks are published in the Stock Exchange Daily Official List the day after the trade.

Another recommendation was for quicker settlement, fewer but larger market-makers, less trading between market-makers and a genuine commitment to making a market rather than simply matching buyers and sellers and then taking a turn.

BHP rises 20% at half time

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Strong oil and mineral prices enabled BHP, Australia's biggest company, to report its best half-year result since November 1985.

Net attributable profits for the six months to November 30 were Aus\$479.1 million (£182.3 million), a rise of 20.7 per cent on the previous first-half result of Aus\$397 million.

A fully-franked interim dividend of 15 cents out of earnings a share of 30.6 cents, up 5.2 cents, was declared.

The result, the first by a

leading company to include the post-crash period, was in line with market expectations.

BHP shares, however, closed 4 cents lower at Aus\$6.50. The reaction was attributed to unstable oil prices.

BHP said the increase was due to management changes, reduced costs, higher production and crude oil prices.

Mr Brian Loton, the managing director, said he was delighted with the second-quarter profit of Aus\$254.6

million, 7 per cent up on the first quarter.

"We have been able to sell every ounce, tonne, barrel of everything we have been able to produce," he said, "although the prices were not what we may have wished."

Revenue rose a modest 10 per cent to Aus\$4.85 billion.

Mr Loton said the world steel industry had picked up and he expected BHP to benefit from the "dramatic" restructuring of Japanese industry.

TEMPUS

An industrial revolution that is polishing the image of RTZ

RTZ Corporation's revised 700p a share cash offer for MK Electric proves the point that in bid situations it is often very profitable to ignore the opening shot and wait. Especially when the bidder leaves the market in no doubt that it is determined to have its prey.

RTZ's enthusiasm for MK, for which it first offered 550p a share, only to be topped by Legrand at 660p, which it then trumped at 700p, stems from the quiet revolution which has been taking place within RTZ which in turn has put a new, and refreshing, complexion on the group as an investment.

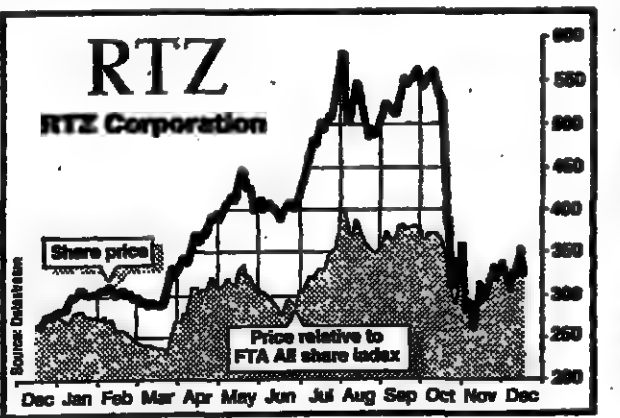
Behind the scenes, and with a board slimmered from 26 to 12, RTZ has been mapping out prospective bid candidates in areas in which it has some experience, and which can be identified as solid additions to its related industrial activities.

MK is the latest, but not the last, example of how the tentacles have spread into areas where there is still market and product potential. MK is essentially British-based, but there are obvious geographical ambitions to be realized once it is fully under the RTZ umbrella.

By yesterday RTZ held a 38.7 per cent stake in MK, and with firm recommendations by both bidder and bid for to accept the deal, the deal is effectively all over bar the shouting.

As a measure of RTZ's quiet acquisition policy, the group has now spent £1.25 billion on a mixture of industrial and natural resources-mining acquisitions in the past 36 months.

Meanwhile, its other interests have continued to forge ahead. The specialty chemicals division has in five years grown from an operation with an annual turnover of £40 million to a division with an annual turnover of £450 million. In North America, through its Indal company, RTZ now has a \$1 billion finger in the construction pie.



In investors' eyes, RTZ is still largely regarded as a mining group first with industrial interests tagged on.

But the divisional profits breakdown of the past two financial years shows that the profits wagon is firmly hitched to the industrial sector. Its profit contribution has comfortably outstripped that of the group's natural resources/mining interests, and looks like remaining the lead runner for a while yet. In the six months to June 30, the wide ranging industrial interests accounted for 60 per cent of the group's attributable profit.

Natural resources/mining interests remain an important feature of RTZ, giving it positions in coal, uranium, oil, aluminium, copper, gold, iron ore, lead and zinc, steel and tin.

There comes a time in the life of every metal when prices have their run, and though base and precious metals rarely dance in time, RTZ's spread does at least ensure some fun out the metal sector.

While certain metals have only recently started to shine, RTZ can clearly look forward to reporting higher average metal prices come the year end, which will be a good start to 1988.

Mining interests are still dear to RTZ's heart, and further opportunities will be seized, though the investment spotlight currently centres on the industrial side -

especially because of fears of knock-on effects stemming from any worldwide economic slowdown.

However, MK should prove defensive to RTZ, and even before the 700p bid was put on the table, the electrical group was forecasting a positive outlook. Meanwhile, the rest of RTZ looks in good enough shape to see year-end net attributable profits at £270 million against £244.8 million. This translates into net earnings of 34.9p a share compared with 31.6p.

There is an historical pattern which suggests RTZ shares rise pre-Christmas until Easter, when year-end results are to hand. With the shares down quite sharply in the market shakeout to 328p, to trade on 9.4 times prospective earnings, shopping early for Easter with RTZ in mind could prove a worthwhile exercise.

TR Technology Investment Trust

TR Technology Investment Trust, managed by Touche Remnant, is engaged in a battle with its largest shareholder, Firmindale Investments, a Jersey company.

Firmindale is pressing TRT to come up with restructuring proposals aimed at reducing the discount on the trust. TRT is working on them.

Firmindale's ultimate ownership is not known. TRT

has been firing off Section 212 notices and received a string of nominee names plus the odd discretionary trust.

What is known about Firmindale is that its adviser is Berkeley Govett, whose chairman, Mr Arthur Truget, does all the talking for his client.

Until June this year, TRT and Berkeley had a close relationship. Berkeley fed unquoted companies into TRT, which gladly accepted almost all of them. That relationship has clearly broken down irretrievably.

Because of the close association between TRT and Berkeley it is difficult for both sides to attack one another's investment expertise. If TRT thinks Berkeley is lacking, why did it accept almost every company that Berkeley introduced into the trust?

Meanwhile Touche Remnant cannot really be faulted for the performance of TRT, which has a highly creditable track record. Could it maintain it without Berkeley?

The acrimony and misunderstanding have gone too far for there to be joint management of the trust. And yet Firmindale, as owner of 27 per cent of the trust, is clearly entitled to have a large say in its future.

The solution should be to divide the trust into two separate vehicles with Berkeley/Firmindale taking the unquoted element which it introduced, with appropriate adjustments. Touche would take the rest, including the trust's stake in Touche Remnant.

Shareholders should be offered an amount of cash which takes into account the limitations of the unquoted investments. Then perhaps the sniping will stop and fund management will begin again.

The signs show that Greene King are on course for another record year

- Half-year profits up sharply at trading and pre-tax levels.
- Sales of Abbot Ale, the flagship brand, continue to make headway.
- Continued significant contribution from investment in The Harp Lager Company.
- Volume sales advanced across the broad range of Harp Lager brands with premium strength Kronenbourg 1664 maintaining impressive growth.
- Greene King confirmed their long term confidence in Harp by deciding to brew Harp Lager from October 1988.
- With a strong balance sheet, positive cash flow and the advantage of operating in an economically fast expanding region, the Directors remain confident about full year prospects.

	1986	1986	1986
	Half year ended 1.11.87	Half year ended 2.11.86	Year ended 3.5.87
Turnover	49,917	46,680	93,853
Profit before tax	5,891	5,040	12,514
Dividends	544	821	2,706
Earnings per Share	9.1p	7.9p	19.8p

Greene King

Interim Results

For copies of the Interim Report, write to the Company Secretary, Greene, King & Sons plc, Westgate Brewery, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QT.

[illegible][illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for December 18					Argentina austral*	
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months	Bahian dollar	0.8990-0.9140
New Yrk	1.8280-1.8320	1.8280-1.8320	0.09-0.0900	0.43-0.4300	Saltira dollar	0.8910-0.8950
Montreal	3.3835-3.4270	3.3835-3.3872	0.119-0.000	0.126-0.010	Colombian dollar	2.24-2.2415
Amsterdam	2.3470-2.3520	2.3515-2.3580	14-1/2p	34-3/4p	Cyprus pound	0.8100-0.8200
Brussels	82.16-82.45	82.16-82.45	14-1/2p	34-3/4p	Finland mark	7.3550-7.3950
Frankfurt	11.4215-11.4270	11.4215-11.4270	14-1/2p	34-3/4p	Ghana cedi	255.50-257.50
Geneva	11.4215-11.4270	11.4215-11.4270	14-1/2p	34-3/4p	Hong Kong dollar	7.24-7.2450
Dublin	1.1179-1.1228	1.1228-1.1233	70-7/8p	150p-par	India rupee	23.50-23.58
Frankfurt	2.9739-2.9854	2.9821-2.9836	15-1/2p	4-3/8p	Kuwait dirham KID	0.4485-0.5035
London	2.9739-2.9854	2.9821-2.9836	15-1/2p	4-3/8p	Malay dollar	0.4485-0.5035
Madrid	201.70-202.85	201.70-202.47	15-1/2p	136-186p	Mexico peso	4010-4060
Milan	211.97-219.65	216.80-2193.48	2-8/8s	11-210s	New Zealand dollar	2.8232-2.9338
Paris	11.6320-11.7070	11.6320-11.7070	8-9/8s	181p-191p	Qatar riyal	5.625-5.9175
Rome	10.5885-10.1015	10.5885-10.1015	9-5/8s	5-11/8s	Singapore dollar	2.8232-2.9338
Stockholm	10.5885-10.1015	10.5885-10.1015	9-5/8s	5-11/8s	S Africa rand (rand)	5.7307-5.3582
Tokyo	231.98-231.98	231.98-231.98	1-4p	24-24p	S Africa rand (rand)	5.7307-5.3582
Zurich	2.4170-2.4270	2.4281-2.4287	11-5/8p	291-292p	S Africa rand (rand)	5.7307-5.3582

*Premia on p/c. Discount = d/c.

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by
Bolsa and Bancaparc Bank, Mexico

Ireland	1,830.0-1,820.0	Denmark	6,270.0-6,270.0	Italy	11,970.0-12,020.0
Singapore	2,000.0-2,010.0	W Germany	1,688.5-1,629.5	Belgium (Com)	34.00-34.05
Malaysia	2,400.0-2,400.0	Switzerland	1,322.5-1,322.5	Hong Kong	7,780.0-7,790.0
Australia	0.7130-0.7140	Netherlands	1,832.0-1,833.5	Portugal	128.10-130.60
Canada	1.5065-1.5090	France	5.5025-5.5125	Spain	110.60-110.70
Sweden	0.4300-0.4300	Japan	126.75-126.80	Finland	11.45-11.48
Bornes	6.3850-6.3900				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank, MOPF and F&F

Money Markets		Money Markets	
Base Rates (4 Week Bank) 5 1/8%	Finance Hes 5 1/8%	Dollar CDs (%)	
Overnight Clearing Loans 5 1/8%		1 mth: 8.40-8.35	3 mths: 7.95-7.50
Overnight High/Low 5 Week Road 8		12 mth: 8.25-8.20	6 mths: 7.95-7.50
Treasury Bills (Discount %)			
Buying: 2 mth - 8 1/8%	3 mth - 8 1/8%	EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
Selling: 2 mth - 8 1/8%	3 mth - 8 1/8%	Commerz	7 day 1 mth 3 mth 6 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)		Dallas:	6 1/4-6 1/4 6 1/4-6 1/4 6 1/4-6 1/4 6 1/4-6 1/4
1 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	2 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	Cal: 6 1/4-6 1/4	
3 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	3 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	Deutsche	2 1/4-2 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4
6 mth: 8 1/8%		Frankfurt	3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4
Treasury Bills (Discount %)		Paris	3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4
1 mth: 8 1/8%	2 mth: 8 1/8%	Swiss	3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4
3 mth: 8 1/8%	3 mth: 8 1/8%	London	3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4 3 1/4-3 1/4
6 mth: 8 1/8%			
Interbank (%)	Overnight: open 8 1/8%		
1 week: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	3 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%		
1 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	2 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%		
Local Authority Deposits (%)			
2 day: 8 1/8%	7 day: 8 1/8%		
3 mth: 8 1/8%	6 mth: 8 1/8%		
Local Authority Rates (%)			
1 mth: 9 1/8%	2 mth: 9 1/8%		
3 mth: 9 1/8%	6 mth: 9 1/8%		
12 mth: 9 1/8%			
CDs (%)			
1 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%	3 mth: 8 1/8-8 1/8%		
6 mth: 9 1/8-9 1/8%			
12 mth: 9 1/8-9 1/8%			
		TREASURY BILLS	
		Apple: 8572 1/8	Alcoa: 8100m
		Bldg: 877 5/8%	received: 33%
		Last week: 857 5/8%	received: 29%
		Large rate: 83 5/8%	last wk: 83 7/8%
		Small: 8100m	received: 27%

INVESTMENT TRUSTS									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
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631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640
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661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670
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701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710
711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720
721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730
731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740
741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750
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761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790
791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
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811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820
821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830
831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850
851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860
861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870
871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890
891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900
901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910
911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920
921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930
931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940
941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950
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961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970
971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980
981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000

103	106	-1	34b	36	45.1
104	107		35b	37	45.1
105	108		36b	38	45.1
106	109		37b	39	45.1
107	110		38b	40	45.1
108	111		39b	41	45.1
109	112		40b	42	45.1
110	113		41b	43	45.1
111	114		42b	44	45.1
112	115		43b	45	45.1
113	116		44b	46	45.1
114	117		45b	47	45.1
115	118		46b	48	45.1
116	119		47b	49	45.1
117	120		48b	50	45.1
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129	132		60b	62	45.1
130	133		61b	63	45.1
131	134		62b	64	45.1
132	135		63b	65	45.1
133	136		64b	66	45.1
134	137		65b	67	45.1
135	138		66b	68	45.1
136	139		67b	69	45.1
137	140		68b	70	45.1
138	141		69b	71	45.1
139	142		70b	72	45.1
140	143		71b	73	45.1
141	144		72b	74	45.1
142	145		73b	75	45.1
143	146		74b	76	45.1
144	147		75b	77	45.1
145	148		76b	78	45.1
146	149		77b	79	45.1
147	150		78b	80	45.1
148	151		79b	81	45.1
149	152		80b	82	45.1
150	153		81b	83	45.1
151	154		82b	84	45.1
152	155		83b	85	45.1
153	156		84b	86	45.1
154	157		85b	87	45.1
155	158		86b	88	45.1
156	159		87b	89	45.1
157	160		88b	90	45.1
158	161		89b	91	45.1
159	162		90b	92	45.1
160	163		91b	93	45.1
161	164		92b	94	45.1
162	165		93b	95	45.1
163	166		94b	96	45.1
164	167		95b	97	45.1
165	168		96b	98	45.1
166	169		97b	99	45.1
167	170		98b	100	45.1
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179	182		110b	112	45.1
180	183		111b	113	45.1
181	184		112b	114	45.1
182	185		113b	115	45.1
183	186		114b	116	45.1
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES											
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Starting											
Mar 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	US Treasury Bond					
Apr 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Dec 87	97.23	99.04	97.17	98.29	81
May 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Jan 88	96.16	98.43	96.01	97.25	81
Jun 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Long Gilt					
Jul 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Dec 87	116.11	117.21	116.11	117.25	26
Aug 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Jan 88	115.07	117.25	115.07	117.25	1680
Mar 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Long Gilt					
Apr 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Dec 87	116.11	117.21	116.11	117.25	26
May 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Jan 88	115.07	117.25	115.07	117.25	1680
Jun 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Long Gilt					
Jul 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Dec 87	116.11	117.21	116.11	117.25	26
Aug 89	90.87	90.82	90.65	90.78	2371	Jan 88	115.07	117.25	115.07	117.25	1680
Three Month Eurodollar											
Mar 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	FT-SE 100					
Apr 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	Mar 88	171.49	173.00	171.49	173.00	1929
May 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	Jun 88	173.50	175.50	173.50	175.50	446
Jun 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	Japanese Govt Bond					
Jul 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	Oct 87	108.25	109.25	108.25	109.25	26
Aug 89	92.15	92.27	92.11	92.25	1653	Mar 88	107.25	109.25	107.25	109.25	26

COMMODITIES		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE									
LONDON ROX		Official prices/previous day's									
Cocoa		G W JOYNSON		S 11/81-81		R/June		Cash		3 months	
1981-82	Dec	1083-1035	Jan	1142-1142	Feb	Copper Gde A	1615.0-1620.0	1345.0-1355.0	2234.25	7/1	Tone
1982-83	Mar	1083-1061	Mar	1142-1142	Mar	Lead	1236.0-1236.0	1034.0-1034.0	276	3/8	Fine
1983-84	May	1080-1078	May	1139-1139	May	Aluminum	1620.0-1620.0	1345.0-1345.0	3950.0	3/8	Standard
JOYNSON						Zinc Hk	484.0-484.0	406.0-406.0	7650.0	00	80
1983-85	Jan	1213-1212	Jan	1253-1251	Jan	Steel	67.0-67.0	581.0-582.0	10.0	1/8	10
1984-85	Jan	1253-1252	Jan	1253-1253	Jan	Steel	67.0-67.0	581.0-582.0	10.0	1/8	10
1985-86	Jan	1253-1252	Jan	1253-1253	Jan	Steel	67.0-67.0	581.0-582.0	10.0	1/8	10
1986-87	Jan	1271-1275	Jan	1438	Jan	Aluminum	1085.0-1090.0	1006.0-1006.0	19712.5	00	Firm
1987-88	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan	Aluminum	1085.0-1090.0	1006.0-1006.0	19712.5	00	Firm
1988-89	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan	Nickel	4250-4400	4250-4255	4770	00	Strong
1989-90	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1990-91	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1991-92	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1992-93	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1993-94	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1994-95	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1995-96	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1996-97	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1997-98	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1998-99	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
1999-00	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2000-01	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2001-02	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2002-03	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2003-04	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2004-05	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2005-06	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2006-07	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2007-08	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2008-09	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2009-10	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2010-11	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2011-12	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2012-13	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2013-14	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2014-15	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2015-16	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2016-17	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2017-18	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2018-19	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						
2019-20	Jan	1438	Jan	1438	Jan						

Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Name
1	Ashley	Industrials A-D	
2	Leeds	Industrials A-D	
3	Lon & Edin Te	Property	
4	Burdays (an)	Bank/Discount	
5	Usher Walker	Paper/Print/Adv	
6	Amec	Building/Roads	
7	Carm Milling	Food	
8	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv	
9	Courts (Pars) 'A'	Draper/Stores	
10	Century	Oil & Gas	
11	Thercontrol	Oil & Gas	
12	Tridinger Hse (an)	Industrials S-Z	
13	Bagbridge Bick	Building/Roads	
14	Newmarket (Lond)	Industrials S-Z	
15	Glasgow (an)	Building/Roads	
16	BPD Ind (an)	Building/Roads	
17	Unitech	Electricals	
18	Honda Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
19	TI	Industrials S-Z	
20	Sunnie Cloth	Industrials S-Z	
21	GRIN (an)	Industrials S-Z	
22	Usher TV	Cinema/TV	
23	Portals	Industrials L-R	
24	Newman Inds	Industrials L-R	
25	Cantos 'A'	Draper/Stores	
26	Bank (Safely C)	Food	
27	Litton	Industrials L-R	
28	HTV N/V	Cinema/TV	
29	BS	Industrials S-Z	
30	McCarthy & S	Building/Roads	
31	Magnet (an)	Building/Roads	
32	Sage	Chemicals/Plas	
33	Coastin	Building/Roads	
34	Haydon Man	Industrials L-R	
35	NMW Comp	Electricals	
36	Ne-Swift Inds	Industrials L-R	
37	Howard Hldg	Building/Roads	
38	Othman	Bank/Discount	
39	Box Mortgage	Bank/Discount	
40	Chetel (S)	Draper/Stores	
41	Kidderston	Bank/Discount	
42	TVAM	Cinema/TV	
43	Croftley James	Building/Roads	
44	Sison Rig	Industrials S-Z	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS			
1987	High	Low	Close
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)			
1987	High	Low	Close
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Close
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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS			
1987	High	Low	Close
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UNDATED			
1987	High	Low	Close
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INDEX-LINKED			
1987	High	Low	Close
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
1987	High	Low	Close
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Late rally

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 7. Dealings ended yesterday. (Contango day December 21. Settlement day January 4.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BREWERIES							
1	10.00	9.80	Asahi	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
2	10.00	9.80	Leeds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
3	10.00	9.80	Lon & Edin Te	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
4	10.00	9.80	Burdays (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
5	10.00	9.80	Usher Walker	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
6	10.00	9.80	Amec	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
7	10.00	9.80	Carm Milling	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
8	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
9	10.00	9.80	Courts (Pars) 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
10	10.00	9.80	Century	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
11	10.00	9.80	Thercontrol	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
12	10.00	9.80	Tridinger Hse (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
13	10.00	9.80	Bagbridge Bick	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
14	10.00	9.80	Newmarket (Lond)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
15	10.00	9.80	Glasgow (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
16	10.00	9.80	BPD Ind (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
17	10.00	9.80	Unitech	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
18	10.00	9.80	Honda Motor	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
19	10.00	9.80	TI	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
20	10.00	9.80	Sunnie Cloth	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
21	10.00	9.80	GRIN (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
22	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
23	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
24	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
25	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
26	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
27	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
28	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
29	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
30	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
31	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
32	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
33	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
34	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
35	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
36	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
37	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
38	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
39	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
40	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
41	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
42	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
43	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
44	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
45	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
46	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
47	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
48	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
49	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
50	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
51	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
52	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
53	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
54	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
55	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
56	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
57	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
58	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
59	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
60	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
61	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
62	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
63	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
64	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
65	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
66	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
67	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
68	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
69	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
70	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
71	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
72	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
73	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
74	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
75	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
76	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
77	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
78	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
79	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
80	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
81	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
82	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
83	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
84	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
85	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
86	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
87	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
88	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
89	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
90	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
91	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
92	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
93	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
94	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
95	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
96	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
97	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
98	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
99	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
100	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
BUILDING, ROADS							
1	10.00	9.80	Asahi	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
2	10.00	9.80	Leeds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
3	10.00	9.80	Lon & Edin Te	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
4	10.00	9.80	Burdays (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
5	10.00	9.80	Usher Walker	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
6	10.00	9.80	Amec	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
7	10.00	9.80	Carm Milling	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
8	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
9	10.00	9.80	Courts (Pars) 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
10	10.00	9.80	Century	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
11	10.00	9.80	Thercontrol	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
12	10.00	9.80	Tridinger Hse (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
13	10.00	9.80	Bagbridge Bick	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
14	10.00	9.80	Newmarket (Lond)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
15	10.00	9.80	Glasgow (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
16	10.00	9.80	BPD Ind (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
17	10.00	9.80	Unitech	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
18	10.00	9.80	Honda Motor	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
19	10.00	9.80	TI	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
20	10.00	9.80	Sunnie Cloth	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
21	10.00	9.80	GRIN (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
22	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
23	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
24	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
25	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
26	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
27	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
28	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
29	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
30	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
31	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
32	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
33	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
34	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
35	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
36	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
37	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
38	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
39	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
40	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
41	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
42	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
43	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
44	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
45	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
46	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
47	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
48	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
49	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
50	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
51	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
52	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
53	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
54	10.00	9.80	HTV N/V	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
55	10.00	9.80	BS	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
56	10.00	9.80	McCarthy & S	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
57	10.00	9.80	Magnet (an)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
58	10.00	9.80	Sage	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
59	10.00	9.80	Coastin	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
60	10.00	9.80	WPP	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
61	10.00	9.80	Usher TV	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
62	10.00	9.80	Portals	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
63	10.00	9.80	Newman Inds	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
64	10.00	9.80	Cantos 'A'	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
65	10.00	9.80	Bank (Safely C)	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0
66	10.00	9.80	Litton	10.00	+0.20	4.5%	15.0

The minister spells out the new Act

The consumer affairs minister Francis Maude warned investment advisers this week that unless they are registered with an approved self-regulating organization (SRO) by the time the Financial Services Act comes into force next April, they could face up to two years' imprisonment.

Mr Maude was speaking during a tour of the east Midlands to discuss the implications of the new Act. He urged investment advisers to register quickly with an SRO in order to avoid the bottleneck of applications that is expected around the January application deadline. Mr Maude stressed that late applications that were not processed in time could result in businesses practising illegally from next spring.

Geoffrey Pointon, chairman of the Leicester-based investment advisers Pointon York, was one of those who exchanged views with the minister. Mr Pointon said after their meeting: "Francis Maude knew we were very much involved in the 'brave new world' of new legislation and this is why he wanted to see us at work and hear our opinions."

Meanwhile, FIMBRA (the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association) has become the first of the proposed SROs to receive formal recognition from the Government-appointed investment watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board.

FIMBRA is the organization by which financial advisers will have to be approved in order to continue trading legally next year. The FIMBRA chairman Lord Eton says: "Our aim will be to provide firm and even-handed regulation of our members. This will protect the interests both of the investing public and of our industry."

A new discretionary investment management service for people with £10,000 or more to invest has been launched by Sedgwick Personal Financial Management Limited. The Sedgwick Investment Management Service (SIMS) offers two types of investment portfolio — a growth portfolio and an income and growth portfolio.

The growth portfolio is for investors aiming primarily for a high level of capital growth; income is

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING



Francis Maude, left, on his ministerial visit to the east Midlands, meets the Pointon York directors — Sydney York, Geoffrey Pointon and Jason Deeks

accumulated within the portfolio and is not distributed. In the income and growth portfolio, income is available for people seeking a rising income as well as capital growth and is distributed monthly by cheque. A range of unit trusts, offshore trusts and other managed funds will be used. The annual management fee for the service is 1 per cent plus VAT.

More details are available from David Sedgwick, Sedgwick Personal Financial Management, on 01-377 3456.

Who gets the lion's share — the Inland Revenue or your family? That is the question uppermost in people's minds when it comes to inheritance tax planning. A new book by the tax specialist Tony Sherring gives step-by-step guidance on the general principles of inheritance tax to help keep hard-earned cash (and perhaps the family home) within the family.

The book looks at new and old planning routes and is well illustrated with worked examples. It includes a detailed assessment of areas such as accumulation and maintenance trusts and discretionary trusts. The potential pitfalls of reliefs, exemptions and valuations are all covered from a practical point of view and there is advice on anti-avoidance regulations.

Inheritance Tax Planning, by F.A. Sherring, is available from *Charter Books, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL, at £11.95.*

The collapse of share prices during the past two months has had virtually no effect on residential property values in the Home Counties, according to London-based chartered surveyors W.G. Edwards & Partners. The firm says that although there has been a decline in activity in the property market in the second half of 1987, prices have continued to rise.

The underlying causes of rising values are still present. The most popular types of property are in short supply relative to demand, incomes continue to rise faster than inflation, and mortgage money is readily available.

Edwards says it is likely that some softening of values could occur in December, where many properties have been valued at a speculation, particularly if the owners of such properties find it necessary to unwind their speculative positions.

Elsewhere, highly priced property dependent for its value on high city incomes could be affected over a period of time.

Now that we are in the final pre-Christmas shopping phase, timely advice on protecting your valuables comes from a major insurance company.

Sun Alliance points out that shops are reporting continuing demand for electrical items such as home computers, television sets and compact disc players. Cameras and bicycles remain popular presents, while jewellery and furs are favourite gifts for ladies.

With such presents, it would not be unusual for an average family to have £500 in value wrapped up under the Christmas tree. Sun Alliance advises people to check that their insurance cover is adequate as soon as they buy new items. Bicycles, cameras and portable stereos can be insured so that cover is in operation while they are out of the house, where they may be lost or stolen. Compact disc players, jewellery and cameras are top of burglars' hit lists, so check that your household policy gives sufficient cover. If it does not, valuables should be insured separately as additional items on the policy.

A final tip as you prepare for that last-minute shopping trip. Keep purses and credit cards secure. Do not leave your wallet in your back pocket and never leave your handbag unattended.

We may be in a bear market but Guinness Mahon Investment Management is being bullish about its Temple Bar Unlisted Securities Fund which is the only authorized unit trust to invest solely in USM shares.

The USM as a whole has fallen more than the main market in the stock market crash. However, the Temple Bar unit trust is, according to Guinness Mahon, the top performer in the UK General Trusts sector in the 11 months to December 1 and the sixth best performer of all unit trusts during that period.

Peter Knapton, of Guinness Mahon, says: "There is plenty of value in smaller company investments trading on the USM. Many have shown very rapid growth from modest beginnings using little outside capital. These companies have up-to-date equipment, flexible and modern methods and a clear commitment to growth in targeted sectors."

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates	Min/max investment	Notice	Contact
		27% 45% 60%			
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min 0-7 day
Girobank	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
National Westminster	5.75	5.75	4.33	3.15	10,000-24,999 1 mth
Midland	6.00	6.00	4.52	3.29	10,000-24,999 1 mth
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.32	5.32	4.01	2.92	10,000-24,999 1 mth
Midland	5.64	5.64	4.25	3.08	10,000-24,999 6 mth
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.70	2.21	1 min
Britannic	6.15	6.15	4.53	3.57	250 min
Bristol & West	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.00	500 min
Bristol & West	7.50	7.55	5.69	4.14	5,000 min
Bristol & West	7.50	7.50	5.88	4.27	10,000 min
Bristol & West	8.10	8.10	6.10	4.44	25,000 min
Nationwide Non-Res	8.75	8.75	6.75	8.75	1 min
MONEY FUNDS					
Aiken Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min
Asset A/c HICA	6.58	6.79	5.12	3.72	3,000 min
Bank Of Scotland	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	1,000 min
Britannic High Interest	5.88	6.01	4.53	3.29	10,000 min
Citibank Money Mkt Plus	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min
HFC Trust & Savings	5.50	5.64	4.25	3.09	2,000 min
Henderson Cheque A/c	7.50	7.84	5.78	4.19	5,000 min
L & G High Int Deposit	5.75	5.91	4.45	3.24	2,500 min
Lloyds Investment A/c	6.25	6.34	4.78	3.47	1,000 min
Midland HICA	4.80	4.91	3.70	2.89	1,000 min
Midland HICA	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min
Midland HICA	5.50	5.61	4.23	3.07	2,000 min
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	10,000 min
Midland HICA	5.75	5.88	4.43	3.22	2,000 min
Midland HICA	5.88	6.00	4.52	3.29	10,000 min
Midland HICA	5.83	5.99	4.49	3.27	1,000 min
Midland HICA	5.93	6.06	4.57	3.38	10,000 min
Midland HICA	6.02	6.16	4.64	3.38	2,500 min
Midland HICA	6.38	6.57	5.10	3.71	1,000 min
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,500 min
Midland HICA	5.70	5.87	4.42	3.22	500 min
Midland HICA	6.07	6.21	4.68	3.40	2,500 min
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,500 min
Midland HICA	5.74	5.86	4.42	3.21	5,000 min
Midland HICA	6.02	6.19	4.65	3.39	2,500 min
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	6.00	6.17	4.55	3.38	1-10,000 8 day
Investment A/c	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	1 mth
Income Bond	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000 3 mth
Deposit Bond	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	100-100,000 3 mth
33rd Issue Cert	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000 8 day
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200,000 14 day
General Exchange Rate	6.31	6.51	5.51	6.51	
Retail Price Index Nov	103.4	103.4	103.4	103.4	
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min 1 yr
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.61	5.43	1,000 min 2 yrs
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.65	5.49	1,000 min 3 yrs
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.68	5.55	1,000 min 4 yrs
Financial Assurance	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min 5 yrs
LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS					
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.61	500 min 1 yr
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min 2 yrs
Kirkcaldy	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min 3 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 4 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 5 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 6 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 7 yrs
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min 8 yrs
Telford	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min 9 yrs
Telford	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min 10 yrs
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS					
Sterling	7.70				7 day 0481 26741
US Dollar	6.78				7 day 0481 26741
Yen	3.50				7 day 0481 26741
D Mark	2.48				7 day 0481 26741
French Franc	7.67				7 day 0481 26741
Swiss Franc	3.10				7 day 0481 26741

KEY RATES					
Retail Prices Index (Nov '86 to Nov '87)	+4.1%				
Mortgage rate*	10.0%-10.5%				
Bank base rate	8.50%				
Bank prime overdraft rate*	13%-18% APR				
Personal loan rate*	19.7% APR				
Credit card rate*	23.1% APR				
Hire purchase rate*	28% APR				
Bank deposit account	2.50-2.63%				
Building society or ordinary account	4%				
High-interest cheque account*	5.90%				
Holiday exchange rates*					
Spanish peseta	198				
French franc	9.93				
Greek drachma	248				
Italian lira	2165				
* Typical rates					
* £1,000 over 12 months					
APR = annual percentage rate					



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Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

Bonuses buoyant but Aids is still the threat

With all the pre-Christmas marketing hype one would expect from a major insurance company, Norwich Union this week announced its 1988 bonus rates for with-profits and pensions policies.

Peter Gartland reports

Norwich Union's general manager, Hugh Scarfield, says confidently: "We are maintaining our current high bonus rates - both reversionary and terminal - and demonstrating our strength against the background of an All Share Index which has fallen back from its all-time high in July to about where it stood at this time last year."

It may sound like a lot of technical jargon but the reality manifests itself very clearly in the amount of money paid out to policyholders.

Ironing out the peaks and troughs of temporary market fluctuations is a principle of with-profits insurance but, as Mr Scarfield argues, "alongside this stability we seek to offer high performance which reflects the rewards of equity investment but without the high risks that can be involved".

The future of bonus rates for both insurance and pension policies has been a talking point ever since the stock market collapse of two months ago.

At that time the effects of a general downturn was expected

the Black Monday crisis and its aftermath were seen far more vividly in unit-linked policies where price falls of 30 per cent and more were not uncommon.

Subsequently, bonus cut-backs at London Life led people to the conclusion that a general downturn was now on the way.

Not so, according to Norwich Union, which attributes at least some of its success to property investment. Commercial properties in the heart of London let at yields of 11 to 12 per cent have provided growth in a year when ordinary shares have not.

According to Mr Scarfield, both dividends and rents have risen substantially, enabling

his company to give high returns to policyholders.

Norwich Union quotes 16 per cent a year on a 10-year endowment maturing this year (19 per cent after tax relief) and 25 per cent on a pension policy (for basic rate taxpayers).

These are quoted as record-level payouts but they are accompanied by a warning from Norwich Union that, with changes in the investment climate, people must expect changes in the level of investment earnings.

"While longer-term payouts may go on increasing, the industry's short-term policy payouts may very well come down," the company stresses.

In practice, Norwich Union's 1988 bonus declaration sees very little change to payouts. Payouts on 15-year and 25-year endowments are marginally up, while 10-year payouts fall back slightly.

Norwich Union's figures quoted in the table speak for themselves.

Early in the New Year we can expect the traditional deluge of insurance company bonus announcements for 1988. Policyholders will be watching anxiously to see whether the insurance actuaries have taken fright of the stock market crash to such an extent that they drastically cut bonus rates.

Ability to pay will be affected

Whatever the short-term outlook the long-term one for life insurance bonus rates is not a happy one, according to the consulting actuaries, R. Watson & Sons.

Watsons pins most of the blame for the forthcoming cut in bonus rates on the increasing number of deaths from Aids, particularly up to the end of this century.

Watsons points out that in the long run additional deaths from Aids will affect life companies' ability to pay bonuses on with-profits policies, although, the firm says, it would be premature to reduce bonus rates sharply yet.

People whose policies will mature in the immediate future have had little chance of contributing to the number of Aids deaths and it is inappropriate that they should be penalized.

According to Watsons, the high terminal bonuses that many offices are able to pay at present provide a substantial first line of defence.

Nevertheless, falling interest rates and the probability that share prices in future years cannot rise at the same rate as they have in recent years, even allowing for the



Hugh Scarfield: confident

recent fall, must mean that we are in for a decade or more of reducing bonus rates.

The additional Aids deaths will create further downward pressure on bonuses.

That sounds like a convincing argument for keeping investment and insurance needs separate. Family Money has frequently recommended this separation.

The simplest way to implement it is to satisfy your insurance requirements through high-cover/low-cost term insurance and then plan your investments through a non-insurance route such as investment trusts or unit trusts.

The predictions about how bonus rates will be affected by Aids deaths makes this advice even more relevant.

Keep it in mind the next time your insurance broker recommends a 10-year endowment policy.

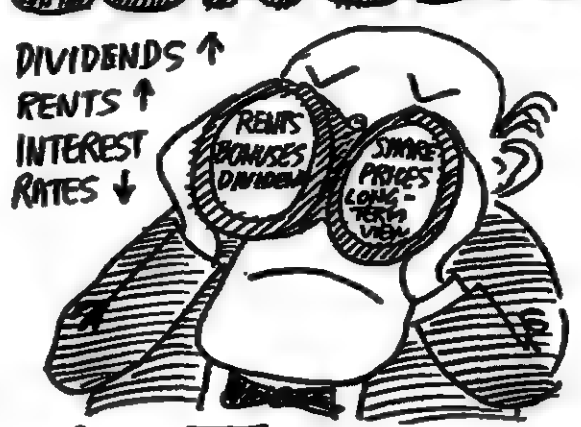
POLICY PAYOUTS

	Maturing Jan 1, 1987 (£)	Maturing Jan 1, 1988 (£)
10-YEAR POLICY		
Sum insured	3,345	3,222
Annual reversionary bonus	1,975	2,014
Special reversionary bonus	385	440
Additional bonus	2,525	2,508
Total	6,430	6,284
15-YEAR POLICY		
Sum insured	5,082	5,082
Annual reversionary bonus	4,726	4,829
Special reversionary bonus	1,721	1,544
Additional bonus	5,872	5,872
Total	17,381	17,487
25-YEAR POLICY		
Sum insured	8,495	8,245
Annual reversionary bonus	12,646	13,348
Special reversionary bonus	9,011	7,775
Additional bonus	10,048	21,025
Total	40,199	50,393

Contracts are for a self-profit endowment insurance issued to a male aged 30 and ending, for a monthly premium of £20.



AIDS



INTEREST RATES



Nigel Lawson, left, introduced the PEP concept in 1986. Barry Bateman is still hopeful

Careful with your PEPs

The spotlight this month has been on personal equity plans, with plan managers working hard to attract investors.

Some have concentrated on recommending the merits of taking out a 1987 PEP before it is too late; others have been seeking to encourage investment in their 1988 plans by offering discounts.

At the same time, attention has been focused on the need for improvements in the PEP framework. Throughout the year plan managers and investment advisers alike have been lobbying the Government to enhance the benefits and relax the restrictions.

Last week these recommendations were supported by action, when Fidelity Investment Managers, the first group to enter the PEP

Handsome growth now unlikely

market, announced that it was deferring the launch of its 1988 PEP.

Barry Bateman, Fidelity's investment services manager said that PEPs had failed to widen and deepen share ownership. Instead, they had been taken out primarily by existing investors.

On a positive note, Mr Bateman said he hoped the Government would respond to the various recommendations by announcing improvements in PEPs in next year's Budget. Fidelity is therefore holding back its 1988 plan until after the Budget.

The desire for a more attractive PEP framework is all very well, but for those people who have already taken out a plan, its usefulness so far is of primary concern.

Clearly, the reports of a handsome growth in the underlying equities is what most investors would like to

hear. Sadly, Black Monday and its subsequent effects on the stock market have made this unlikely, to say the least.

In the hope of making the best of the stock market collapse, one Family Money reader from Hertfordshire wrote to ask whether or not he could cash in his PEP ahead of schedule and use the losses to offset his liability to Capital Gains Tax.

Before examining this question, it is worth reiterating some of the key points of the framework of PEPs, introduced by Nigel Lawson in his 1986 Budget. The maximum investment is £2,400 a year or £200 a month.

As long as you keep your plan for a full calendar year, which means a minimum of between 12 months and two years, no Capital Gains Tax is payable on any profits and no income tax on the dividends, which can be reinvested.

If an investor decides to cash in a PEP early, the plan is automatically void, and assuming a loss has been made, the investor can certainly use this to offset against any CGT liability.

This is not, however, a step that should be taken lightly. If you are contemplating such a move, there are various points that you must take into consideration first. Remember, dividends are paid free of income tax, and interest on cash held in a PEP is paid gross. These benefits are forfeited if the plan is made void.

Another important point to bear in mind is the penalty levied by the plan managers on early withdrawal. This charge is often hefty, sometimes £25, £50 or possibly more. And, just because a plan manager does not quote a penalty fee there is no guarantee that you are not losing out - some managers who do not state a penalty charge have higher initial plan charges.

So, where the capital

depreciation is small, the cost of cashing in the plan early may not really be worth it.

To demonstrate, Derek Booker, manager of the Lloyds Bank PEP Centre, says that at the end of November its Managed Plan, which includes some unit trusts, was down by 2.3 per cent, net of charges, since its launch at the beginning of the year.

For anyone who had invested the maximum sum of £2,400 in January, this means the plan is roughly £55 down.

If realized, the CGT set off on this sum is worth £16.50. This assumes, of course, that you have utilized your annual CGT exemption limit.

This calculation ignores the income earned on the investment. Mr Booker says that, taking a gross yield of 5 per cent, the income on the plan

'They are long-term investment vehicles'

could be in the region of £120. Here, the tax liability on early encashment would be £33 at the basic rate.

Of course, those unfortunate investors who took out a PEP when the market was at its peak could well be faced with a plan that is down by the best part of 30 per cent.

In this case, anyone faced with a bill for CGT may well consider cashing in the PEP. But even these individuals should think carefully - PEPs are not aimed at investors looking to make a short-term profit.

Mr Booker says: "PEPs should be looked at as a long-term investment vehicle. What is more, investors should remember that if they shut their 1987 PEP and stock values rise, they have lost that opportunity of having money in a 1987 PEP."

Amanda Pardoe

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Portfolio Gold

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 27).

Share	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
1	+6	+6	+7	+4	+7					
2	+7	+8	+8	+8	+6					
3	+4	+6	+7	+6	+4					
4	+4	+3	+4	+7	+4					
5	+6	+7	+7	+6	+7					
6	+4	+4	+5	+6	+4					
7	+7	+9	+9	+7	+5					
8	+6	+6	+6	+5	+5					
9	+6	+6	+6	+7	+6					
10	+7	+7	+7	+4	+7					
11	+6	+6	+6	+6	+6					
12	+6	+6	+6	+8	+6					
13	+5	+5	+4	+8	+3					
14	+4	+6	+5	+7	+3					
15	+6	+8	+6	+7	+6					
16	+4	+3	+4	+8	+5					
17	+5	+6	+8	+4	+8					
18	+5	+6	+6	+6	+8					
19	+5	+6	+6	+6	+4					
20	+6	+7	+6	+7	+7					
21	+5	+6	+7	+4	+7					
22	+3	+4	+5	+6	+4					
23	+7	+9	+8	+7	+7					
24	+7	+6	+8	+5	+7					
25	+5	+4	+4	+5	+4					
26	+5	+6	+5	+6	+3					
27	+6	+6	+7	+3	+8					
28	+6	+7	+7	+6	+5					
29	+4	+5	+5	+7	+5					
30	+3	+5	+4	+5	+4					
31	+5	+7	+6	+6	+5					
32	+4	+5	+7	+5	+4					
33	+4	+4	+4	+7	+5					
34	+7	+3	+6	+5	+8					
35	+8	+9	+6	+6	+6					
36	+6	+6	+7	+5	+3					
37	+5	+3	+5	+7	+4					
38	+6	+8	+7	+8	+6					
39	+5	+7	+8	+4	+8					
40	+4	+5	+4	+6	+6					
41	+5	+6	+8	+3	+6					
42	+6	+8	+5	+7	+6					
43	+3	+4	+4	+6	+3					
44	+6	+6	+6	+7	+3					

THIS WEEK

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Five million unit trust holders

Figures from the Unit Trust Association this week reveal funds under management at the end of November of £34.6 billion, 7.5 per cent below the previous month's figure. The fall reflects the continuing uncertainty in markets around the world. However, the number of unit-holder accounts continues on an upward trend and now stands at more than five million for the first time.

Christmas ideas from the Pru

Happiness is a disaster-free Christmas. That is the message from the giant Prudential, which covers three million homes in the UK. So, do not hang Christmas decorations too close to fires, make sure nobody has left a cigarette burning after a party, keep guards around open fires if you have young children or pets about, and unplug television sets and other electrical appliances before going to bed.



In times like these, you need an "homme d'affaires" more than ever

In the old days, everyone of substantial means employed a wise professional who co-ordinated their financial affairs sensibly, while they got on with their lives. He didn't pretend to know the answer to everything himself, but he knew the best person to ask.

Nowadays, the "homme d'affaires" is a rare bird indeed, but he didn't entirely disappear with the quill pen...

He is alive and well in The Master Portfolio Service. This combines the clean administration and tax efficiency of a unit trust with the really worthwhile aspects of a personal, traditional stockbroker's service - but without all the messy and expensive paperwork.

The minimum investment is a modest £50,000, but such is the beauty of the concept that quite a number of our clients have happily entrusted us with well over £500,000.

In current market conditions, this unique combination of the old world and the new is particularly appropriate for the thoughtful investor. Why not ask us for details of our service? Your "homme d'affaires" is here waiting to help you.

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FAMILY MONEY/3

Tom Tickell takes a sideways and slightly irreverent look at privatization

Go to pray and get your share of the Church

Secret government plans to privatize the Church of England will provide small investors with a seasonal bonanza when the plans are finally announced in the run-up to Christmas next year.

Ministers claim that privatizing the Church — to be known as British Cleric — should raise between £5 billion and £7 billion, helping to finance a further major tax-cutting programme. But they stress that there is more to it than that.

"People who invest in British Cleric will have a strong financial interest in promoting the higher spiritual and moral values, which everyone wants to see," said one senior Treasury source this week. "The more congregations rise, the better the returns will be. From now on investors will have their rewards on earth as well as in Heaven."

Whitehall also sees privatization as a way of dissociating the Government from some recent Church pronouncements on inner-city renewal and the National Health Service, which it views as almost Marxist. But it is to keep a "golden share" in British Cleric and have the right to reject some corporate shareholders.

The idea is to ensure that Cleric is safe from takeovers by such groups as the Moonies, the Scientologists, or indeed very rich American fundamentalist television networks.

How will British Cleric work? It will sell licences to companies which will "manage" groups of churches, abbeys and cathedrals for a five-year period — on the lines of commercial television.

The companies will be able to charge fees for entrance, though the fees in every case will have to reflect the popularity of the Church and the tourist throughput involved. A levy of provision-

ally 5 per cent will be added, and used on a government programme to raise moral awareness in Britain's schools, to be organized by the Department of Education and Science.

"The system's not that different from the present pattern of moral pressure implied in all those suggested contributions," remarked one City figure who is closely involved in the flotation plans.

"It just brings matters out into the open. We recognize that the big companies will all want the plum abbeys and cathedrals that attract the tourist traffic. But they have to take the bread and butter, if they are going to enjoy the cake. The bigger the abbeys they are given, the more smaller churches they will be expected to maintain."

During the first five years, Whitehall plans to conduct a "throughput audit", and according to those close to the plans, it may then declare redundant one in five of less historic churches that do not

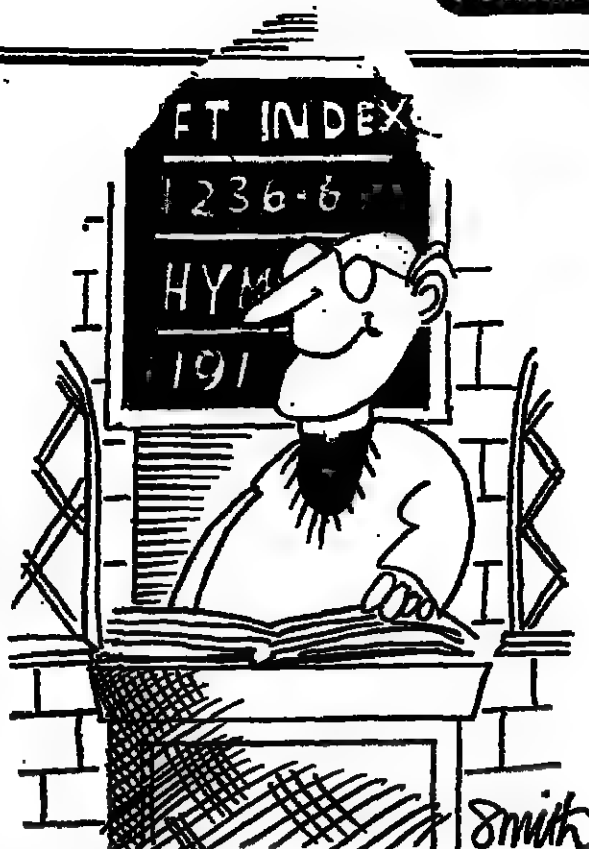
Passes will be issued by OffGod

attract visitors. Many of these surplus churches will be in the inner cities, and the companies holding them will then be free to redevelop the sites — though Whitehall is keen to stress that tight controls will apply on the mix of housing and office space.

Every development will have to contain two public halls to be used for religious or community purposes, for instance.

The Government is acutely sensitive to potential charges that the new structure will impose financial penalties on those wishing to pray.

Churches will offer free entrances during services for everyone, and there will be free "prayer passes" issued to those who have attended their



local church at least once a month during the previous year — excluding Christmas and Easter. The passes will be issued by OffGod, the new regulatory authority covering Cleric, on the recommendations of persons up and down the country.

Prayer passes will ensure the holders can go in free at any time, and there will also be concessionary rates for the over-60s, and for practising members of other religious faiths such as Catholics, Presbyterians and Unitarians.

Originally, the Government was firmly against making special provisions for members of non-Christian religions such as Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. Now it is to reconsider the questions after protests from the Commission for Racial Equality.

Downing Street is keen to find a distinguished chairman for OffGod.

Whatever happens on that score, Whitehall is determined to attract a mass of small investors to the issue. A life-long free church pass will go to anyone investing more than £1,000, and there are promises of cut price baptisms, and special discounts for weddings and funerals for smaller contributors.

How does Downing Street react to potential critics who will suggest that you cannot serve God and Mammon?

Cleric's message of hope in 1988

recommended that the groups within it — Anglo-Catholic, high church, low church and born-again — should be free to compete with one another.

The Prime Minister has come down firmly against it. "A national church is not a break-up situation," was the message from Downing Street this week.

Overall, British Cleric is designed to provide a message of hope in 1988. "Christmas today is all about giving," says one minister proudly. "What better gift could there be than an investment which combines faith, fun and family finances?"

Stop Press: The Government has denied the story of this privatization as a malicious fabrication...

Just starting? It's a gift

CONAL GREGORY suggests starting youngsters on their investment careers this Christmas

Parents, godparents, uncles, aunts and other relatives have a great opportunity at Christmas to start children or teenagers on the savings trail with an account of their own. And with most schemes tailor-made for the young, there will be friendly reminders of your gift during the coming year.

Banks and building societies are openly competing for this key sector, much as they did for the university student account.

With base lending rates at 8.5 per cent, the lowest since March 1984, it is important not only to compare investment rates offered, but also to assess the bolt-on goodies of the different schemes.

Sheffield Building Society (66 Campo Lane, Sheffield S1 2EG) tops the children's rates with a net 9.5 per cent. For a minimum £1, the Children's account offered by the society can be opened and built up to £500, but a parent or grandparent must also have or open an account with the society.

Harpenden Building Society (14 Station Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 4SE) offers 9 per cent with its 18 Club. It presents a free T-shirt on opening, but one possible disadvantage is that the account cannot be closed until the 18th birthday.

In the West Country, the Frome Seaward Permanent Building Society (3 Market Place, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DQ) has a Gold Minor account for youngsters, paying 8.5 per cent net. If the child is under one year, the society adds £5 to the account. It pays interest twice a year, sends out birthday cards and gives complimentary money boxes on opening the account.

A free money box as well as a junior quiz are offered to those in the Junior Savings scheme of the Gainsborough Building Society (26 Lord Street, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 2DB). At the moment it pays 8.25 per cent, which will fall to 7.25 per cent on January 1. The account may be opened for £2 for anyone aged up to 16.

Ilkerton Permanent Build-

CHILDREN'S SCHEMES

NET RATES	BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY
9.5%	Sheffield
9.0%	Harpenden
8.5%	Frome Seaward Permanent
8.25%	Gainsborough
8.0%	Muswell Permanent, Rowley Regis
7.75%	Bath Investment
7.5%	City Cross Benefit, Nottingham Imprest
7.0%	Chalfont
6.9%	Peckham
6.5%	Children, Market Harborough, Nelson Wetherby
6.25%	Marsden, Portman
6.0%	North Wales Ridgeway
5.75%	Haywards Health and District
5.5%	Barnsley, Derbyshire
5.25%	Bank of Scotland
5.25%	Bradford & West
5.0%	Morwell, Leeds Permanent, Scarborough
4.5%	(united), Clydesdale Bank
4.25%	Northwich and Pilsborough, Saltaire Wetherby and Essex, Midland Bank
4.0%	Abney National, Birmingham Midlands, Bradford & Bingley, Chalfont & Gainsborough, Gainsborough, Gainsborough, Halifax, Lancashire, National Westminster, National & Provincial, Nippon, Tipton and Consett, West Bromwich, Yorkshire, Woodwich Equitable, Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank
3.0%	TSB
1.0%	Royal Bank of Scotland

* Includes 1.75% bonus paid May and November * Higher rates by deposit of more than £500 * Higher rates for deposits of more than £100 * Plus 0.25% bonus on opening * Plus bonuses when various levels reached

ing Society (16 Queen Street, Ilkerton, Derbyshire DE7 5HQ) has a no-frills Children's Share, paying 8 per cent net for a minimum of £12 investment per year and a maximum of £120. The same rate is offered, but for a minimum £5, by the Rowley Regis Building Society (223 Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands B64 6JQ). This is for its Young Saver account, which goes up to 18 years.

Cards for both birthday and Christmas are sent by Bath Investment and Building Society (20 Charles Street, Bath, Avon BA1 1HY). Its Bertie Bids account pays 7.75 per cent net for sums of £1 to £1,750. A free money box in the shape of a rabbit, an owl or a hedgehog is sent on opening and there is a certificate to encourage saving when £50, £100 and £150 are reached.

The banks offer less attractive rates. Supersaver from the Bank of Scotland is best with 5.26 per cent net. A folder, a pen, a quarterly magazine and badges and a birthday card up to 16 years form part of the package.

Clydesdale's No 1 account includes a gift such as a camera and film when the child reaches £15. The account costs £10 to open.

Barclays has a magazine three times a year for its Supersaver account, which pays 4 per cent net. The money box costs £3 but includes a £2 token which can be credited to the child's account.

Midland Bank has two schemes for the young. Griffin, for those up to 10 years, comes with an action film, a pen and a magazine on the birthday. The same 4.25 per cent net rate is paid to holders of its No 1 account, which gives a choice of a leisure bag, including a T-shirt, or a



camera, film and four photo-processing vouchers when £15 plus is saved.

Ceramic pigs are offered by the National Westminster in its aptly named Piggy account, which can be opened for just £1. Every time £25 is saved the child can have another pig.

The TSB gives a poster to youngsters with its Jeans scheme. Every time a deposit is made the child is given a sticker and a larger present, such as a pocket calculator or digital clock, when he or she has been saving for a year.

Finally, among the more novel schemes to remind a child of your festive gift, the Peckham Building Society gives free membership of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds or other bodies with its Jumbo Savings account, where a sum of £1 to £50 a month is saved regularly.

Court of Appeal

Right of detainee to consult solicitor

Regina v Samuel

Before Lord Justice Gidwell, Mr Justice Hodgson and Mr Justice Rooker

[Judgment December 17] A person detained in police custody had a fundamental right to consult a solicitor privately and, where it was sought to justify denial of that right on reasonable grounds, that could not be done except by reference to specific circumstances including evidence about the person detained or the actual solicitor involved.

The Court of Appeal, so held in a reserved judgment, when allowing the appeal of Cornelius Joseph Samuel against his conviction at Birmingham Crown Court (Judge Richard Cole and a jury) on April 13, and sentence of 10 years' imprisonment on a count of robbery. He was sentenced also to two years' imprisonment concurrent on two counts of burglary to which he pleaded guilty.

Section 58 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 provides: "(1) A person arrested and held in custody in a police station shall be entitled if he so requests, to consult a solicitor privately at any time..."

"(4) If a person makes such a request, he must be permitted to consult a solicitor as soon as it is practicable except to the extent that delay is permitted by this section.

"(5) In any case he must be permitted to consult a solicitor within 36 hours..."

"(6) Delay in compliance with a request is only permitted — (a) in the case of a person who is in police custody for a serious arrestable offence, and (b) if an officer of at least the rank of superintendent authorizes it..."

"(8) An officer may only authorize delay where he has reasonable grounds for believing

that the exercise of the right... (a) will lead to interference with or harm to evidence connected with a serious arrestable offence or interference with or physical injury to other persons; or (b) will lead to the alerting of other persons suspected of having committed such an offence but not yet arrested for it; or (c) will hinder the recovery of any property obtained as a result of such an offence."

Mr Brian Escott QC, QC and Mr Philip Parker, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr David A. F. Jones for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant had been arrested on suspicion of armed robbery at a branch of the Leeds Permanent Building Society in Birmingham.

He was arrested on August 6, 1985 at about 2pm and was interviewed twice and on the second occasion he refused to see a solicitor. That was held to be a breach of the right to see a solicitor, and that there was a likelihood of other suspects to be arrested being inadvertently warned.

The appellant had two further interviews, and on the second of those on the following day, he confessed to two burglaries but again denied the robbery as he had consistently done before.

At 4.45pm that day his solicitor telephoned the police station and was informed that his client had been charged with the two burglaries but was still not allowed access to a solicitor. Between 5.22pm and 5.40pm he was again interviewed and confessed to the robbery. He was charged at 6.20pm with that offence and was seen by his solicitor at 7.25pm.

The sole ground of appeal was

that the trial judge was wrong in holding that the denial of access to a solicitor was justified, that he should have held that it was not justified and should have ruled that the evidence relating to the final interview was inadmissible.

Where delay in compliance with a request to consult a solicitor was authorized by a police officer under section 58(5) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 one or more of the grounds set out in subsection (5)(a) to (c) had to be satisfied.

In practice the only way that the person in custody could make any of the grounds in (5)(a) to (c) happen was by some communication from him to the solicitor. If the solicitor did something knowing that it would result in anything in (5)(a) to (c) happening he would, almost inevitably, commit a serious criminal offence.

Therefore, inadvertent or unwitting conduct apart, the police officer had to believe that the solicitor would, if allowed to communicate with a detained person, thereafter commit a criminal offence.

The number of times that a police officer could genuinely be in that state of belief would be rare. Moreover, to sustain such a basis for refusal the grounds put forward would have to have reference to a specific solicitor and it was not thought that they could ever be advanced in relation to solicitors generally.

In relation to inadvertent or unwitting conduct by a solicitor it had been said that the detained person would be able to bring about one or more of the happenings in (5)(a) to (c) by causing the solicitor to pass on unwittingly some form of coded message.

Whether there was any evi-

dence that that had or might have happened in the past was not known.

Solicitors were intelligent professional people; persons detained by the police were frequently not very clever and the expectation that one of the events in (5)(a) to (c) would be brought about in that way seemed to contemplate a degree of intelligence and sophistication in persons detained and, perhaps, a naive and lack of common sense in solicitors of doubtful competence.

When and if it did happen it would have to have reference to the specific person detained. The archetype would, it was imagined, be the sophisticated criminal who was known or suspected of being a member of a gang of criminals.

Their Lordships considered that the appellant had been denied improperly one of the most important and fundamental rights of a citizen. The trial judge had fallen into error in not so holding.

If he had arrived at correct decisions on the points argued before him he might well have concluded that the refusal of access and consequent unlawful interview compelled him to find that the admission of evidence as to the first interview would have "such an adverse effect on the fairness of the proceedings" that he ought not to admit it.

Such a decision would, of course, have very significantly weakened the prosecution case (the failure to charge earlier inculpated showed that).

In those circumstances the Court of Appeal considered that it had no alternative but to quash the appellant's conviction on the charge of robbery.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Birmingham.

Right to conduct own case limited

Regina v Morley

Before Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice French

[Judgment December 15] The right of a defendant in criminal proceedings to call witnesses and address the jury, conferred by section 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1865, was subject to the obligation upon the judge to ensure the proper conduct of the trial as a whole.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing the appeal of Denis Jacob Morley against his conviction on March 6, 1986, after a retrial, at Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Pene and a jury) of burglary, on which he was sentenced on April 7 at the Central Criminal Court to an extended sentence of six years' imprisonment.

Mr Morley in person; Mr William Andrew-Jones, QC and Mr Andrew Congdon for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE WOOLF said that at trial the appellant appeared in person, having dispensed with the services of his counsel. The manner in which he conducted his defence caused intense difficulty to the very experienced trial judge and grossly prolonged the proceedings.

The case for the prosecution in relation to the burglary was not complicated and it was estimated that the evidence in chief given by the prosecution witnesses lasted little more than an hour and a half after an opening of the case for the prosecution which lasted six minutes. The trial however extended over 38 days, though on several days the court was adjourned.

To impose some limitation on the length and expense of the trial the judge felt compelled to refuse the appellant's request for certain witness summonses, and to order the appellant to be removed from the court from

time to time. His removal just prior to the commencement of the summing up deprived him of the opportunity of addressing the jury at the end of the evidence called on his behalf.

Section 2 of the 1865 Act could not be regarded as giving a licence to a defendant to behave how he liked; a defendant's conduct under section 2 was conditional upon him using it for the purpose for which it was given, which was to advance and not to defeat the course of justice, and for the proper conduct of the trial.

The court had a reserved power to avoid its process being abused by a defendant. However, it was to be emphasized that that power, particularly in relation to the closing speech, was to be exercised exceedingly sparingly and really only when there was no alternative. This was one of those exceptional cases.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Nottinghamshire.

good repair and condition, or alternatively on grounds of nuisance and negligence.

The defendants denied liability and counter-claimed under the repairing covenants in the lease for the cost of repairing the roof.

The action and counter-claim came before the judge for trial on liability only. He held that a covenant by the defendants to keep the roof and the rain-water outlets in good repair and condition was to be implied in the lease, that the defendants were in breach of it and that there should be an inquiry as to damages on the plaintiffs' claim. He dismissed the defendants' counter-claim.

Although the lease had been carefully prepared there was no clause which pointed towards the plaintiffs contributing to the costs of repairs to be carried out by the defendants. But without a covenant by the plaintiffs to reimburse the costs, there was no commercial sense, so far as the defendants were concerned, in the defendants binding themselves by covenant to repair the roof that would be wholly out of character for the present type of commercial lease.

His Lordship would hold that the part of the roof over Unit 6 and the rain-water outlet which was in that part of the roof were included in the parcels demised to the plaintiffs under the lease and were therefore covered by the plaintiffs' repairing covenant.

It followed that the plaintiffs were, when the roof collapsed, owners of their repairing covenant in that they had failed to keep the part of the roof over Unit 6 and the rain-water outlet in it maintained repaired and cleansed and generally in good and substantial condition.

His Lordship turned to the plaintiffs' claim against the defendants in nuisance and negligence. On the facts the defendants had possession of all the units and of the parts of the roof over them including all the rainwater outlets in those parts of the roof — by far and away the majority of the rain-water outlets. The defendants had been warned by their architects of the need to keep the outlets clear and the roof clean, and warned of the foreseeable consequences if that was not done.

His Lordship had no doubt that the defendants were liable to the plaintiffs in nuisance and negligence save if and in so far as the defendants were absolved from liability by the plaintiffs' own breach of their own repairing covenant in failing to keep the one outlet above Unit 6 clear. The crux of the appeal was therefore the interplay of the two liabilities.

What then was the effect in law? At this juncture it was noted that the principle of apportionment for contributory negligence under the Law Reform (Contributory Negligence) Act 1945 since (a) apportionment of liability in tort because of contributory negligence was the

context in which questions of apportionment of liability usually arose and (b) the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Forsikringsaktieselskabet Vesta v Butcher* (The Times November 12, 1987) which was reported under the heading "Power to apportion blame in contract" only a few days before the hearing of the present appeal.

It was to be remembered, however, that the 1945 Act had a very limited function; it was enacted merely to override the archaic rule of the common law, which had long been recognized as unjust, that if a plaintiff sued in tort for damages for negligence his claim would wholly fail if it was shown that he had been guilty of any degree of contributory negligence, however slight, which was not *de minimis*.

In the *Vesta* case the court held that the 1945 Act applied, with the result that liability fell to be apportioned under it, where a plaintiff, who had been guilty of contributory negligence, chose to formulate in contract a claim against a defendant which was in substance a claim in tort and could equally have been formulated as a claim in tort.

In the present case, the claim of the plaintiffs against the defendants was a claim in tort — nuisance or negligence, involving failure to take reasonable care to avoid a foreseeable danger — but the defendants' cross-claim against the plaintiffs was not a claim in tort at all; it was a claim in contract — breach of an absolute repairing covenant in the lease — which could not be formulated as a claim in tort.

Therefore, in his Lordship's judgment, the 1945 Act had no application to the present case since the breach of covenant on the part of the plaintiffs did not fall within the statutory definition of "fault" in section 4 of the 1945 Act. More importantly, for present purposes, the *Dracoman* rule of common law which the 1945 Act was passed to override also had no application to the present case since that

rule had no relevance to a claim in or to a breach of contract which was not also itself tortious.

The problem which the court faced, on claim and counter-claim alike, was a problem of causation of damage. On the claim, the question was how far the damage to the plaintiffs' goods was caused by the defendants' negligence notwithstanding the plaintiffs' own breach of covenant.

On the counter-claim, the question was how far the damage to the defendants' building was caused by the plaintiffs' breach of covenant. The effect was that on each question, apportionment was permissible.

That was the same result as the 1945 Act would produce but it was not reached through the Act, because the obstacle which the 1945 Act was passed to override was not there on either claim or counter-claim in the present case.

In making the apportionment, his Lordship regarded as significant the number of outlets in the relevant half of the roof for which the defendants and the plaintiffs were respectively responsible and on a broad assessment would apportion liability as to 90 per cent to the defendants and 10 per cent to the plaintiffs.

Accordingly, his Lordship would allow the appeal and vary the order of the judge by directing an inquiry as to the plaintiffs' claim and on a broad assessment would apportion liability as to 90 per cent to the defendants' damages the subject of the counter-claim.

His Lordship would then order the defendants to pay 90 per cent, and not the whole as ordered by the judge, of the plaintiffs' claim and on a broad assessment would apportion liability as to 90 per cent to the plaintiffs' damages the subject of the counter-claim.

Lord Justice Croom-Johnson delivered a concurring judgment and Mr Justice Causid agreed.

Solicitors: A. W. Mawer & Co, Manchester; Pannone Blackburn, Manchester.

Court of Appeal

Apportioning liability in counter-claim

Move to improve speed of criminal appeals

Practice Direction: Notices of Appeal and Applications for Leave to Appeal

An amendment in serving notices of appeal designed to improve the speed with which appeals were heard was delivered by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) with Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and Mr Justice Leonard on December 18.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said: "With effect from January 1 next, rule 2(6) and (7) of the Criminal Appeal Rules (SI 1968 No 1262) will be amended by rule 2 of the Criminal Appeal (Amendment) Rules (SI 1987 No 1977 (L 9)) to provide that notices of appeal and of application for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Di-

vision, should be served not, as hitherto, directly on the Criminal Appeal Office but on the crown court at which the proceedings took place.

"The crown court will forward the notice to the Criminal Appeal Office together with the trial documents and any others which may be required."

"The purpose of this change is to get the necessary documents to the Criminal Appeal Office with the minimum delay."

His Lordship said that the change cut out one of the stages and would, his Lordship hoped, succeed in improving the speed with which appeals were heard.

In case of difficulty, practitioners should consult the crown court or the Criminal Appeal Office.

Compensation orders

Regina v Dorson

The imposition of a compensation order was a speedy, summary and cheap method of ensuring that where funds were available to compensate a victim, compensation should be paid. It was not right in every case to regard it as an additional punishment where a sentence of imprisonment was also imposed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice French) so held on December 8 when dismissing the appeal of William John Dorson against the sentences imposed on him on October 2, 1987 in Croydon Crown Court (Judge Willis). For

offences of assault occasioning actual bodily harm and damaging property he was sentenced to a total of two years' imprisonment, and compensation orders totalling £2,850 were imposed.

MR JUSTICE FRENCH said that had the victim in this case not been given the benefit of a compensation order he might well, if so advised, have brought civil proceedings against the appellant and have recovered judgment which could have been satisfied from the equity in the appellant's flat. It might be painful for an offender to have to pay compensation, but it would be equally painful if civil proceedings were brought, and indeed more so because of costs.

Clash with Kelly widens Maxwell's rift with League

By Ian Stafford

The rift between Robert Maxwell and the Football League widened last night when the newspaper publisher and Graham Kelly, the League secretary, clashed over a report that Maxwell had bought a 10 per cent stake in Marler Estates, the owner of Queen's Park Rangers and the controller of both the Chelsea and Fulham grounds.

Maxwell, who categorically denied the report, was furious that Kelly had commented on it without checking the facts with him. Maxwell said: "As an official employed by clubs, Kelly's correct stance would have been to telephone me to discover if there was any truth in the fairy tale, and not to lend his authority to it without ascertaining what the facts were."

Kelly, reacting to the first news of the alleged Marler purchase, had said: "If the news about Maxwell is true it illustrates the correctness of the League's stance and demonstrates the need for the regulation we will be putting to clubs on January 19."

At next month's extraordinary meeting the 92 clubs in the Football League will be asked to strengthen regulation 80 in the rules that states that one man can only have controlling interests in one club.

Argentine tonic to revive Tottenham

By Clive White

Ossie Ardiles, whom Terry Venables appointed as acting player-coach in the interim period before he arrived himself at White Hart Lane, will hope to inspire Tottenham Hotspur to their first victory under their new manager when he returns from injury tomorrow in the televised game against Derby County at the Baseball Ground.

As well as being Ardiles' first game for Venables, it will be the first time that Tottenham have been seen by television viewers since the former Barcelona manager succeeded David Pleet last month. Since then they have suffered two more defeats and it is now 10 matches since Tottenham last tasted the sweetness of victory.

With Hoddle long gone, Waddle yet to rediscover his early season poise and Ardiles, aged 35, absent ill then injured, Tottenham have been without a creative force in midfield. Stevens or Samways will make way for the Argentine, who was performing with great gusto before Venables' arrival.

The return of another inspirational Tottenham veteran, Clemence, is delayed by

lack of fitness after injury, so Parks continues in goal despite suffering injuries of his own last week when, with a courage peculiar to goalkeepers, he went down at the flying boots of a Charlton forward. Apart from facial injuries he also bit through his

Hungary date

Hungary have agreed to fill a void in England's European championship build-up. The Hungarians have invited England to play in Budapest on April 27 after Portugal had pulled out of a fixture arranged for that date. England have won their last two matches in Budapest in the 1982 World Cup and the 1984 European championship.

tongue and has been unable to eat solid food since.

After home defeats to Liverpool and Charlton, Venables still cannot escape the glare of the spotlight. Tottenham will make way for the Argentine, who was performing with great gusto before Venables' arrival.

Venables seems unconcerned by the mounting pressure following his much-heralded arrival.

week that he dispose of his interests in Derby County, Oxford United and Reading before purchasing Watford for £2 million.

Reports of Maxwell's interest in Marler Estates did not come, however, as a total surprise to the property company's chairman, David Bulstrode, who took over control at Queen's Park Rangers earlier this year. He said that he had heard the rumours a few days ago but "the market abounds with rumours. To get any say the buyer would have to make a successful bid for the company and that would mean buying at considerably more than the present share price, so there is a long way to go."

It read: "The statement in the London Evening Standard that I have acquired a 10 per cent stake in Marler Estates and, through them, an interest in Queen's Park Rangers, and Chelsea and Fulham's grounds, is a malicious lie."

"There is absolutely no truth in the story whatsoever and a writ will be issued against the newspaper. The clear purpose of inventions such as these is to damage me in my current dispute with the Football League."

Maxwell, who is still embroiled in his long-standing argument with the Football League concerning his intentions to take over the control of Watford, threatened to quit football after the League management committee demanded earlier this

Council to take over home team

By Ian Stafford

In an unprecedented move in English football, Peterborough City Council is on the verge of taking control of the troubled fourth division club, Peterborough United, to become the country's first local authority to wholly take over a club in the history of the League.

Peterborough, struggling with debts of £500,000, have been in the hands of administrators specially appointed by the High Court since October, but now there is a move, supported by all political parties, for a council rescue package.

The council's plan, officially presented to the club's administrators, Richard Summerfield and David Morgan, yesterday, involves the purchase of Peterborough United for £1.5 million by a property development company. They will then do a land swap, receiving a prime building site while the club and their London Road ground go to the council.

The authority then intend appointing directors of wide business experience to run the football club on a tight financial footing and insist that there will be no burden to ratepayers.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to secure the future of Peterborough United and we have come up with a cashless deal which puts no authority money at risk," Charles Swift, the City Council's leader, said.

The council proposals have been unofficially welcomed by the administrators. "I think the plan is very satisfactory and hopefully progress will now be made," Steve Kendrick, the former club chairman, added.

Although a novel venture in British football, the running of clubs by local authorities is not new on the Continent, especially in top French football. Councils have proved successful in their handling of clubs such as Bordeaux, St Etienne and Paris St Germain, three of France's leading first division teams.

Peterborough City Council's argument is that few other sources of leisure can provide a similar level of entertainment for 4,000 at least every other week. With other Football League clubs teetering on the edge of financial collapse, Peterborough's move might begin a sequence of similar events around the country.

Juventus lose their appeal

Milan (Reuters) - The Italian league yesterday upheld a decision to reverse a win by the first division club, Juventus, last month because of a fire-work incident.

Juventus appealed against the decision, which had meant they slipped from third to fifth place in the division. The League had reversed the Turin team's 2-1 win, awarding it 2-0 to their visiting opponents, and also imposed a 20 million lire (about £3,900) fine.

The decision followed an appeal by Cesena in which their defender, Dario Sanguin, collapsed after a firework hit a temporary players' tunnel.

Qadir as batsman torments England again

Patient Aamir bats out the day

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Karachi

After taking two early wickets England were held up and finally worn down by some resolute batting when the third Test match was continued here yesterday. This means, almost certainly, that the series will go to Pakistan.

With Aamir Malik batting through the day in only his second Test innings, Pakistan led by 51 runs at the close of play and still had two first innings wickets left. It is the rest day today and the match ends on Monday.

Not long after ten o'clock England were able even to have visions of winning. By five o'clock, when the long and hot day ended, the position had been reversed. Although the pitch is slow enough for a draw to have become the likeliest result, Pakistan have in Qadir the one bowler capable of squeezing a victory out of the eleven hours left for play. The chances of England winning have now virtually gone.

England wanted yesterday not for perseverance so much as inventiveness, and from Dilley there was some very wild bowling. Where the first two days had produced 222 and 194 runs respectively, both for seven wickets, Pakistan now lost four wickets while adding 223.

Aamir's was a considerable feat of application. He is said to be a stroke player by inclination; but with his survival of prime importance to Pakistan, who need only to draw the match to win their third successive series against England, he allowed himself only a few overs of freedom. This was against the new ball, and particularly against Dilley.

England made the best imaginable start to the day when Salim Malik slipped a long hop from DeFreitas straight to Gatting, standing some 20 yards away on the off side and just behind square. This was a great piece of luck. When Ashraf was then caught at the wicket of Dilley, the ball more pitched up than most of his, Pakistan were 146 for six, still 148 runs behind with only the bowlers to come.

In theory they were distinctly vulnerable; yet in the remaining 72 overs of the day only two more wickets fell.

By 11.45 Aamir had batted for two and three-quarter hours for 14. In his only other Test innings, in Faisalabad, he took 78 minutes to score five. In his first four hours of Test batting, therefore, he had made 19. His play was based on the forward defensive stroke. When Dilley tried to bounce him out, there was a good deal more conviction about Aamir's smile than Dilley's stare.

Pakistan board launch Faisalabad inquiry

Karachi - The incident in last week's second Test match in Faisalabad, which led to the loss of a whole day's play, made headlines round the world and did the game of cricket no good whatever, it is to be the subject of a two-man inquiry (John Woodcock writes).

Conducting it will be Yawar Saeed, a well known figure in Pakistan cricket, who played for some years for Somerset, and Omar Karachi, a journalist and, like Saeed a former manager of Pakistan's touring teams.

The England players, who will be at the inquiry's disposal after play tomorrow, may wonder as to Karachi's impartiality, having read his virulent criticism of their performance at the time of the incident and afterwards. But it is said that the purpose of the inquiry is not to pass judgement so much as establish facts and recommend how such troubles may be avoided in future.

The report will be passed to the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan next week and, in part, to the Test and County Cricket Board.



Stumbling block: Aamir Malik swings for six with Gatting admiring the stroke from slip

For the 90 minutes after Ashraf was then seemed to be almost more time when nothing was happening than when something was. If it was not the sightseeing that needed moving someone was being brought a drink, and there was the usual traffic in those infernal helmets to hold up play. The morning lasted for two and a half hours, lunch for 90 minutes, ostensibly for prayers.

Except twice, when he drove and then pulled Cook for six, Aamir used his long forward reach to thwart the spinners. It was not until the new ball was taken that the tempo noticeably quickened. Then, in nine overs, 58 runs were scored, the majority of them off Dilley, who was freely hooked and cut.

Rather than Pakistan's innings being finished off by the new ball, as England had been hoping, it brought only the wicket of Aamir, who misbatted a short one from DeFreitas in the second over

of the afternoon. The chances of a useful English lead were gradually disappearing, and at 248 Gooch dropped Qadir at second slip off Dilley, the ball coming straight at him at Adam's apple height. When, soon afterwards, Dilley came off, Aamir went back into his shell. Having gone from 14 to 50 in half an hour, he scored seven in the next hour. For a 24-year old he was remarkably assured and seemingly imperious.

Of the 84 overs England bowled in the day, the minimum quota of 35 were by Emburey and 20 by Cook, and they had nothing but the sweat of their brows to show for them. Although professionally accurate they set few problems in the air, and what turn they got was gentle. Emburey appealed for leg before once or twice, partly perhaps for something to do.

Without a leg spinner to turn to, just for variation, Gatting left the game on automatic pilot. I should have

liked to see him take an over himself, or give Gooch one. As it was, Pakistan needed only patience to pass England's score. Once, when Aamir lost his, Cook could have caught and bowled him for 72, a straight and firm but lowish hit going down.

At last, with 40 minutes left, Gatting decided to break with routine and take a chance with Capel's damaged knee, and immediately Qadir was out. Having just gone from 49 to 61 with two straight sixes off Emburey, Qadir was bowled off his pads. On his form yesterday there is not a side anywhere that would scoff at having Qadir at number seven, let alone number nine. This was his best Test score and Capel's first Test wicket.

When England came off, honourably tired and inevitably disappointed, young Aamir had been batting for six and a quarter hours. If he gets his 100 tomorrow it will go at once into the books as one of the slowest on record.

SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI

ENGLAND					
First Innings 294 (D J Capel 88, J E Emburey 70; Abdul Qadir 5 for 88)					
PAKISTAN					
First Innings					
Mudassar Nazar	106	50	1	129	121
Ramiz Raja	50	55	6	143	121
Salim Malik	4	4	1	3	2
Javed Miandad	4	4	1	3	2
Wasim Akram	91	12	376	306	
Aamir Malik	12	2	1	40	35
Western Aamir	35	6	1	112	81
Abdul Qadir	61	4	6	132	104
Iqbal Qasim	10	1	1	48	33
Extras (lb 11, nb 8)	19				
Total (8 wickets, 126 overs)	345				

Salim Malik to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-105, 3-110, 4-110, 5-122, 6-146, 7-222, 8-316.
SLOWING: Dilley 21-8-102-1 (pb 4); DeFreitas 20-3-80-3 (pb 4); Emburey 40-22-86-1; Cook 35-15-35-1; Capel 3-0-0-0.
Umpires: Mahmood Shah and Khizer Hayat.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Roche out of race

Stephen Roche, the world road-race cycling champion and winner of the Tour de France and of Italy this year, has had to pull out of tomorrow's annual Christmas race in Ireland.

He is still recovering at his home on the outskirts of Paris from recent surgery to his left knee, originally injured when he crashed two years ago in the Paris six-day race partnered by Tony Doyle. Despite the injury, Roche will join his new team, Fagor, next month as planned.

Fine decision

A Rugby League Appeals Board today lifted the £50 fine imposed on three Castleford players following an alleged brawl in the game at Hull on October 25. The successful appeals were made by Gary Hyde, Bob Beardmore and John Joyner, but another Castleford player, Martin Ketteridge, had his appeal rejected.



Roche: recurring knee injury

Cash incentive

Sandy Jones, the secretary of the Scottish PGA, said yesterday that a minimum of £375,000 in prize-money would be available for next year's Scottish golf Tour.

Rugby blues

The Oxford University Rugby League team may include Rugby Union Blues for the first time when they play Cambridge in the Varsity match at Headingley on March 15.

Second verdict

Paris (AFP) - The women's world cycling champion, Jeanie Longo, of France, has been cleared by the French cycling Federation of using a stimulant when she set a world 3,000-metres record at Colorado Springs in September. The Federation said there were errors in the testing procedure.

Standing down

John Finlan, the chairman of Midlands rugby selectors, is standing down after 10 years. Finlan presided over victories for the Division against both Australia and New Zealand, and the Divisional championship in 1985.

Out of court

The basketball match between Kingston and Crystal Palace in the semi-finals of the women's National championship tomorrow has been postponed after six members of the Kingston team were involved in a motorway accident. There were no serious injuries.

Becker will be off court for six weeks

Bonn (Reuters) - Boris Becker, the former Wimbledon champion, will take a six-week break from competitive tennis and will miss next month's Australian Open, *Bild*, the mass-circulation newspaper reported yesterday.

The West German, who has a contract with *Bild*, has been receiving treatment in Munich for a chronic knee injury since returning from the Masters in New York last week.

Bild said Becker, his manager Ion Tiriac and new coach Bob Brett had agreed that the player should rest from competition to allow the injury to heal properly.

Becker will return to the courts at the end of January for three exhibition matches with the world No. 1, Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, two in Japan and one in West Germany. His first competition will be the first round Davis Cup tie with Brazil in Essen from February 5-7.

END COLUMN

Jockey Club admits failings

By Michael Seely

In a statement of unprecedented frankness issued yesterday, the Jockey Club, racing's ruling body, shouldered some of the blame for the adverse publicity given to the sport after the Lester Piggott case, as a result of which the most famous figure in racing was jailed in October for three years for tax evasion.

The case followed the disclosure that Henry Cecil, Piggott's trainer, had written to owners asking for ex-gratia payments on top of Piggott's retainer.

Yesterday's statement read: "The stewards very much regret that the action taken in the Cecil letters between 1981 and 1984 was not effective and accept that the interests of all concerned would have been better served if more positive steps had been taken at the time."

Lord Fairhaven, the senior steward of the Jockey Club, commented: "I accept and fully understand the concern expressed by both the public and those involved in racing about certain aspects of the Lester Piggott affair."

Positive action to be taken

"I want them to know that the Jockey Club is now taking positive action to ensure that the rules of racing are designed to cover issues that have been raised by it and I am determined that they will then be energetically enforced."

The two specific areas in which the Jockey Club intends to take action to tighten up their rules cover the registration of retainers between trainers and jockeys, and also those involving betting by jockeys, which has always been a strictly forbidden practice in this country.

This particular rule, 62 (II), it considers to have been too narrow and intends to make it more specific and comprehensive covering "a wide variety of situations and broadening the rules to incorporate other persons betting on behalf of jockeys."

The Jockey Club considers that the relevant rules 75 and 76 concerning the registration of jockeys' retainers need to be updated. It also intends to draw up a guide for jockeys on matters of tax.

Significantly, it also intends to consult with other "interested parties whether other agreements should be registered as well." This refers to jockeys not only receiving additional payments but also shares in prospective stallions.

Much of the statement is concerned with "considerable speculation about the so-called Henry Cecil Letter and the involvement of Jockey Club stewards at that time."

In 1981, John MacDonald-Buchanan, the then senior steward, who had a horse in training with Cecil, received a letter from the trainer about "registering additional requirements over and above the amount due for Lester Piggott's retainer registered at Weatherbys."

Clear warning of breach of rules

MacDonald-Buchanan informed Simon Weatherby, the then secretary of the Jockey Club and Louis Freedman, the deputy senior steward, what had happened and went to see Cecil, warning him that his actions were in breach of the rules of racing. He came away satisfied that what he had said had been "considered, understood and accepted by Cecil." The owner "believed he had acted promptly to prevent a breach of the rules."

MacDonald-Buchanan ceased being senior steward in June 1981 and Simon Weatherby died in January 1983. There were no records of the interview or action taken. However, he has emphasised that he took "full responsibility for the action taken in 1981 regarding the Cecil Letter."

In view of the continuing concerns about the matter of Piggott's retainer with Cecil, the Jockey Club has also considered the position of other owners with Cecil at that time.

However, a leading Counsel's opinion has stated "Circumstances do not give rise to any breach of rules of racing on their part."

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